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POLL RESULTS

Do you plan to attend any of the inauguration events scheduled next week?

Yes	44
No	117
Undecided	4

Sunday, January 10, 2010

INSIDE

New Orcas

The number of orcas in the Northwest has bounced back with six new babies and no whales lost.

NATION...Page 15

Bleak Kabul

In Afghanistan, most people believe it is at its bleakest since the U.S. invaded to topple the Taliban in 2001.

FOCUS...Page 17

911 Call

A 911 call reveals the frantic efforts by Brittany Murphy's mother and husband to save the actress' life.

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'Extend transition beyond 2015'

Kilili: Give CNMI power to certify foreign labor need

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) is pushing for an extension of the five-year transition period so that the CNMI can continue to have access to foreign workers beyond 2015 if needed, and wants the CNMI governor to be given the authority to certify the need for foreign labor, similar to what the Guam governor does.

See EXTEND on Page 4

Lawyers negotiate McPhetres, Fernandez 'meeting'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two lawyers are now negotiating for a possible meeting between Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and former NMC instructor Sam McPhetres to "settle" issues involving the latter's previous employment with the college.

McPhetres confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that his lawyer, Robert Torres, had already contacted Fernandez's counsel but failed to get a clear and favorable response to date.

"My lawyer called [Fernandez's] lawyer and asked for a meeting. And then the president's lawyer came back to my lawyer and said that they won't be available for another two weeks,"

See LAWYERS on Page 4

Fernandez

Ben Babauta is Chamber's Businessperson of the Year

New officers, directors sworn in

Vicente "Ben" M. Babauta delivers a speech after bagging the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Businessperson of the Year award.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Vicente "Ben" M. Babauta of DFS Saipan Ltd. bagged the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Businessperson of the Year at a ceremony Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside, where the group's

See BABAUTA on Page 4

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman, right, administers the oath of office for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2010 board of directors led by president Douglas Brennan, left, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside on Saturday night.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mobil mirrors Shell's 10-cent price increase

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Marianas increased by 10 cents a gallon the pump prices of all its fuel products yesterday, mirroring the price hikes of Shell Marianas on Friday.

See MOBIL on Page 4

A Mobil Oil Marianas service station display shows the new pump prices of self-serve regular and premium gasoline, which increased by 10 cents a gallon yesterday afternoon, mirroring Shell Marianas' price hikes on Friday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Palau's Toribiong to reopen consulates on Saipan, Guam. **PAGE 5**

Fitial's inauguration today marks many 'firsts.' **PAGE 9**

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Local

$7.6M CUC projects approved

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has approved the proposed $7.6 million worth of projects for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., with funding coming from capital improvement project accounts, according to a ranking CUC official.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae said the release of the funds means the governor recognizes the urgency of addressing CUC's critical concerns.

CUC remains under a state of emergency declaration as a result of the poor condition of its power generation, water, and sewage systems.

With the governor's go-signal, the CIP office headed by Vicky Villagomez is now looking for CIP monies that will be reprogrammed for these priority projects, according to Malae.

Based on the master plan that was submitted in November, CUC's proposal for critical oil management projects will address not only the stipulated order number 2 mandates of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency but also the concerns of the U.S. Coast Guard as relayed during Typhoon Chon-Wan.

CUC is under court order to comply with two stipulated orders. One is related to CUC's inadequacy of providing potable drinking water and wastewater services. The other one involves the lack of infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer facilities of the power generation facilities, and power distribution, including possible environmental site cleanup.

CUC said it is the purpose of the projects to avert financial and environmental crises to CUC and the people of the CNMI and to improve the basic infrastructure required of the Power Division in its generation and distribution systems.

CUC indicated in the proposal that the projects will be prioritized in consultation with EPA so that rework and further delays are avoided.

CUC expects the projects can be executed without penalties and court action if funding can be made available in two phases.

Saipan Tribune learned that the amount required to implement these urgent overdue projects is $4.3 million while funding that could be made available after January 2010 is $3.2 million.

The $7.6 million approved proposals include:

- hiring of consultants and technical people, estimated at $360,000;
- procurement of minimum spill response equipment, $45,000;
- used oil sampling program, $25,000;
- facility assessment, $60,000;
- fuel transfer to pipelines in Power Plants 1 and 2, $1.65 million;
- secondary containment areas in Power Plants 1 and 3, $150,000'
- secondary containment area on Rota, $60,000;
- oily water separators, $350,000;
- used oil transfer or disposal programs in Power Plant 1, $860,000;
- for personnel training and drills, $20,000;
- procurement of personnel protective equipment, $48,000;
- facility response equipment, $270,000;
- tank cleanout and testing, $210,000;
- new used oil incinerator, $270,000;
- rehabilitation of tanks in Power Plant 1, $1.45 million;
- rehabilitation of tanks in Power Plants 1 and 2, $450,000;
- rehabilitation of tanks on Rota, $300,000;
- used oil disposal program on Rota, $205,000;
- disposal of contaminated soil, $135,000; and
- contingency (overhead and project management), $691,800.

WORLD RESORT

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OPEN DATE: January 7, 2010 CLOSE DATE: January 12, 2010
POSITION: Lifeguard/Prim (8/positions) SALARY- $4.55/hour

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- Police Clearance
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- Must posses a current lifeguard certificate. (i.e. ARC/YMC/Ellis & Associates/USLA/Hawaii State Lifeguard/ Canadian Lifeguard/Australian Lifeguard).
- Hospitality and customer service experience preferred.
- Multilingual skills a plus (i.e. Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Chinese).

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For more information you may contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Ex. Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274

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7,000 new doses of H1N1 vaccines now available

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health received another shipment of H1N1 vaccines on Thursday, totaling 7,000 new doses.

Pete Untalan, deputy secretary for Public Health, announced Friday that the new doses will be made available to all community members on three islands.

SCHEDULED VACCINATIONS
- Jan. 12: Tuesday Market in the Garapan Fishing Base;
- Jan. 14: Thursday Garapan Street Market; and
- Jan. 16: Saturday Sabalu Market in Susupe

The Commonwealth is slated to receive a total of 56,000 H1N1 vaccines to avert a swine flu outbreak. So far, it has already received 25,000 doses since last year.

Mariana Coats, the CNMI's Immunization Program manager, reported that CHC has a total of 16,000 doses on hand, ready for distribution to both priority groups and the public.

Since the launch of the hospital's intensive vaccination campaign against the H1N1 flu in November 2010, Coast said 8,300 doses have already been administered, including those given out to public and private schools.

Saipan Tribune learned that over 5,000 schoolchildren have received the doses.

Rota and Tinian also held open vaccinations in their respective community last weekend.

"Vaccine supply is not an issue here. We have enough supply to provide to our priority groups and the general public who want to avail of the service," Untalan said Friday, adding that DPH is trying to reach out to everyone in the community.

Untalan disclosed that the CNMI's aggressive effort in fighting the virus was recognized during a health meeting in Australia. The Commonwealth to date remains clean in terms of flu-related deaths compared to neighboring Guam with two fatalities.

Now that China is reporting an upswing in H1N1 cases, DPH officials said they will keep the public updated by issuing updates about the outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between April and mid-November 2009, 47 million people were hospitalized and nearly 10,000 people died, with a vast majority of deaths occurring in children and elderly adults.

Flu experts have warned about a possible third wave of the H1N1 flu pandemic.

"We don't know exactly when that's going to happen, but we do know that vaccination is the most important step in protecting against it," health officials said.

For this reason, they said the CNMI will be joining the rest of the U.S. states and territories in the annual observance of National Flu Vaccination Week, designated from Jan. 10 to 16.

Untalan said the basic message is, "Together, we can fight the flu."

In light of the National Flu Vaccination Week and the continued effort to protect CNMI residents from H1N1, the department will be spearheading H1N1 mass vaccination drives throughout the month of January:

- Jan. 12: Tuesday Market in the Garapan Fishing Base;
- Jan. 14: Thursday Garapan Street Market; and
- Jan. 16: Saturday Sabalu Market in Susupe

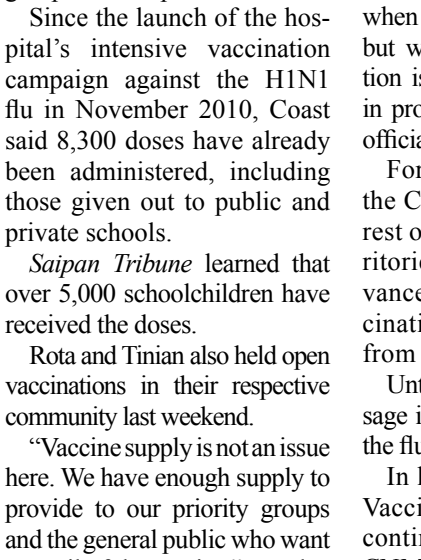
Moreover, the department will be back at Head Start and elementary schools starting Jan. 20 to administer a second dose to those 9 years old and younger who received the first dose in December.

The H1N1 vaccine comes in two forms: the shot and nasal spray. Health officials reiterated that the vaccine is safe, effective, and is the best protection against the flu.

Pete Untalan, deputy secretary for Public Health, speaks during a news briefing held Friday at the hospital's conference room.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

I just got a great pair of glasses for just $77.00! at Marianas Eye Institute



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BABAUTA

From Page 1

2010 officers and board of directors also took their oath of office.

"This is a big title. It's like an Oscars," Babauta told the crowd of some 140, referring to the prestigious Academy Award, popularly known as the Oscars, presented to outstanding professionals in the film industry.

Babauta, 42, is assistant general manager for operations at DFS Saipan Ltd., where he has worked since 1987.

He said he believes his community services won him the coveted award, whose recipients since its inception now total 14. He remembers being an assistant scout master for the Boy Scouts in the early '90s, and this is what he considers his first public service, and the rest is history.

"This means a lot to me… I enjoy what I do and I think that makes the difference. Public service is about giving back to the community," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview after the installation dinner on a rainy Saturday night.

Among Babauta's community services are his chairmanship of the annual Tournament of Champions, which raises funds for community beautification projects since 1996, and his presidency of the Northern Marianas College Foundation since 2007.

His personal donations to worthy community groups have so far totaled $30,000, and said he will continue giving to community programs and activities.

Babauta bested two other candidates for the 2009 Businessperson of the Year: Chamber former president and now vice president James "Jim" T. Arenovski of Delta Management Corp., and Phillip T. Mendiola-Long of Bridge Investment Group and Sherman Consulting LLC. Mendiola-Long didn't make it to the installation dinner.

After the awarding ceremony, Babauta was greeted by well-wishers. His wife of 20 years, Linda, was by his side throughout the Chamber dinner. He said his two children are currently studying in Las Vegas.

"It's also about attitude, which is the foundation of our life. I encourage everyone to always stay positive, enthusiastic and always get out of there and support our future, the youth, your family, your community, and the businesses," he said.

New officers

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman swore in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2010 board of directors on Saturday night.

Douglas Brennan of Microl Corp. is now the president; James "Jim" Arenovski of Delta Management Corp. is now vice president; Michael S. Johnson of Deloitte was re-elected treasurer; and Kathryn Barry of KB Communications was re-elected secretary.

Officers serve one-year terms, while board members serve two-year terms.

Also sworn in to the board of directors were Alex S. Sablan of Saipan Shipping Co., who was re-elected; and attorney Vincent J. Seman of Carlsmith Ball LLP, replacing Jay Santos who decided to step down from his post.

Joining Sablan and Seman on the 2010 board are Mark Birmingham, Steve Jang, and David M. Sablan Sr.

Silent auction

The Chamber's installation dinner included a multi-course plated dinner, musical entertainment by the Big Beats Band, and a silent auction, the proceeds of which will benefit the Chamber's Education Scholarship Fund and other educational endeavors.

Items auctioned off included a large Gucci "D Gold" Hobo Bag, LG network Blu-ray disk player, Blackberry 8520 and one-month free service, and limited free stays at different hotels like Hyatt Regency Saipan, Palms Resort Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Grand Hotel, and Rota Resort.

Brennan, in his remarks, said he "strongly disagrees" with statements that promoting continuing education and awarding scholarships has nothing to do with running a business.

He cited a "White Paper on Education and Economic Development" prepared for the Guam Community and Economic Development Forum, which lays out the case for linking education with an economic development strategy.

"In short, an educated workforce is a key facet in any economic development plan," he said. "A concentrated effort in education is not a 'cure-all' but it does increase the likelihood of a positive outcome in economic development and decreases the chances of undesirable outcomes like increased poverty, crime, poor health, and social unrest."

Brennan also underscored the importance of having a closer working relationship with the CNMI government.

He also said the Chamber needs to help the government attract new businesses, and expand marketing efforts to compete in the world market. He also proposed to work together to see what can be done to increase the buying power of all CNMI residents. In his remarks, Brennan also talked about economic opportunities in agriculture, aquaculture, floriculture, and military buildup.

Arenovski, in his remarks, said he has immensely enjoyed his time as Chamber president.

"I have seen us get a national monument, our first U.S. congressman, and our own quarter. What more could one ask for? There have been many forums, conferences and task forces to attend. These experiences have allowed me to see various views on a variety of issues. In short, I am a better person for this experience," said Arenovski.

MOBIL

From Page 1

Mobil's price increases took effect at 2pm yesterday, according to surveyed service stations on Saipan.

This is the first gasoline price increase for 2010, breaching the $4-mark a gallon for some gasoline products.

The price increase also comes a month after Shell and Mobil hiked their pump prices, also by 10 cents a gallon, on Dec. 4 and 7, respectively.

At Mobil service stations, a self-serve regular unleaded gasoline is now $3.679 a gallon. A full-serve regular unleaded gasoline now costs $3.809 a gallon. Shell has the same rates for these products.

When it comes to super or premium gasoline, Shell's products are 2 cents higher than Mobil's.

At Mobil service stations, the cost of self-serve super unleaded gasoline is now $3.979 a gallon, while full-serve is $4.099 a gallon.

Mobil's diesel is also now $3.849 a gallon due to a 10-cent price hike.

Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen eight rounds of pump price increases. This means that for the 12-month period, motorists have paid an additional 95 cents or almost a dollar for every gallon of gas they put in their tanks.

In the U.S. on Monday last week, crude oil closed at $81.51 a barrel, the highest on the New York Mercantile Exchange since Oct. 9, 2008. Analysts also say the cold weather hiked demand for natural gas.

LAWYERS

From Page 1

McPhetres said.

The veteran instructor was let go from the college after more than 20 years of service after Fernandez decided not to renew his contract. The issue spurred controversy at the college after students and community members expressed dismay at the president's decision.

In a petition signed by NMC students, the president was urged to disclose and justify the nonrenewal of McPhetres' contract.

McPhetres declined to comment for now when asked if he's thinking of suing the college.

"I will not answer that question at this point in time. All I can say is that my lawyer wants to settle the issue before the beginning of the semester…but it seems it's not looking really good."

McPhetres officially left the college on Jan. 6 and NMC is set to start a new semester on Jan. 19.

Last week, Fernandez told *Saipan Tribune* in a statement that she takes the concerns raised by the students about McPhetres' nonrenewal seriously.

Fernandez reiterated the college's policy not to disclose personnel matters publicly but said she's open to meeting with McPhetres.

"I've always stated that I am open to meeting with and listening to the concerns of Mr. McPhetres," she said.

Four priorities

In a separate interview with NMC Board of Regents chair Janet King, she cited the immediate priorities of the board this year, adding that Fernandez's performance evaluation is among the four immediate goals they have.

"First, we are going to review those policies that are currently in place, and ensure that they accurately reflect the standards we expect the president—the administrator of those policies and standards—to carry out," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

The board will also work to ensure that it monitors institutional performance, which includes getting up to speed with accreditation.

Third, King said, is to evaluate the president in the performance of her duties.

"Finally, we will work very hard to make sure that the people of the CNMI know they can count on us to lead as a thoughtful, educated team," she added.

The board, according to King, believes that the CNMI economy and the islands' quality of life depend on having an educated citizenry and skilled workforce.

"We understand that people expect NMC to provide them with quality education and training opportunities, and nothing less than the best. To that end, our focus is to make NMC be competitive and responsive. We do that through our governing role," she said.

EXTEND

From Page 1

Sablan said these in his remarks as keynote speaker at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's installation dinner for the 2010 board of directors at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside Saturday night.

Although U.S. immigration law applies to the CNMI beginning Nov. 28, the CNMI will undergo a transition period with temporary measures ending Dec. 31, 2014, to allow for an orderly transition and give individuals time to identify an appropriate visa classification under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

In his prepared speech, Sablan said he has met with U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis a number of times and encouraged her to start sending her staff out to the CNMI, so they could talk with her about the situation in the CNMI particularly as it pertains to setting the prevailing wage.

The Chamber has long been asking the presence of U.S. Department of Labor representatives in the CNMI to be able to directly listen to concerns of employers and workers in the CNMI, and provide guidance on policies such as the prevailing wage.

"I have asked her [Solis] to start thinking of using her power to extend the five-year transition period beyond 2015, so we can continue to have sufficient workforce after that date—if needed," Sablan told some 140 members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Sablan, who will be among those attending today's inauguration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, cited the federalization law's requirement to phase out foreign labor in the CNMI by 2015.

"I have also asked her to consider providing the Northern Mariana Islands the authority to certify the need for foreign labor, as the governor does in Guam," he added.

Guam is unique among U.S. territories as its governor has been granted by the federal government "certifying authority for Temporary Labor Certifications issued in Guam," according to the Guam Department of Labor.

The CNMI governor sued the U.S. government over federalization, and a federal judge's ruling prevented DHS from implementing its interim final rule on the CNMI transitional worker rule without giving ample time for public comment and consider these comments before coming up with the final rule. The comment period ended on Jan. 8.

Besides these "efforts at persuasion" directed to the U.S. Labor secretary, Sablan said he has also begun taking legislative action to smooth out the "rather poorly conceived federalization law."

"I must also remind you that foreign labor cannot be the permanent basis for a sound economy. I challenge you all to hire more U.S. citizens in your businesses," Sablan said.

'Next challenge'

Jim Arenovski, former president and now vice president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said businesses must show Washington, D.C. that they are committed to training the local workforce while showing the federal government the "reality that for the foreseeable future, we will need the assistance of foreign labor."

Arenovski, who traveled to Washington, D.C. three times to represent Chamber members and the CNMI business community including testifying in front of the U.S. Congress, said the next challenge at the federal level is to effectively work with the U.S. Department of Labor in making sure appropriate job classifications and prevailing wages are set for the CNMI.

The US DOL, in a notice in the Dec. 4 Federal Register, announced that it is now providing guidance for prevailing wage determinations for use in the CNMI effective Nov. 28.

The prevailing wage is different from, and is generally higher than, the minimum wage.

In the CNMI, the current minimum wage is $4.55 an hour, and will increase by 50 cents every year until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

'Key role'

The delegate thanked the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for partnering with him during his first year of representing the CNMI in the U.S. Congress. He said he looks forward to working with the business organization in 2010.

Among other things, he cited working with Chamber's Arenovski and executive director Kyle Calabrese, who have provided—on behalf of the business organization—"articulate, thoughtful, well-reasoned advice on congressional action" affecting business in the CNMI.

Sablan said the Chamber's testimony played a key role in convincing Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to continue to allow Russian and Chinese tourists to fly to the CNMI visa-free—"one of the few glimmers of hope in an otherwise tough climate for business."

Later in his speech, Sablan warned that the CNMI cannot afford to be complacent.

"What Secretary Napolitano gave, Secretary Napolitano can take away. We have just seen how quickly the security climate can change with just one incident," he added.

Arenovski, in his remarks, said he's proud to have been an active participant in the process of making CNMI businesses' concerns heard in Washington, D.C.

He said he is "more proud" that the Chamber and many other individuals, including Sablan, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and other entities, have collectively been able to "place enough light on our issues in D.C. that those in D.C. found a way for us to keep our Russian and Chinese tourists."

Newly-installed Chamber president Douglas Brennan, for his part, said the business organization has been able to nurture a good working relationship with DHS and its affiliate orgaizations over the past several years.

Work in Congress

Sablan also seized the opportunity to share with Chamber members and guests what his office and the CNMI have achieved so far by having him as delegate to the U.S. Congress.

He cited the 111th Congress's record of being one of the most active and productive of all time, having passed and enacted into law a number of major bills.

"I would never discount the work the CNMI resident representative did, or the lobbying efforts of our governors over the years. But the truth is, nothing compares to being in the meetings and voting, when the Democratic Caucus makes its decisions. No amount of lobbying from the outside can have the same effect as standing side-by-side with other members of Congress…" he said.

He also cited the at least $140 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money that could stimulate the CNMI economy and put people to work.

"But our local government needs to get the money moving and our governor has made it very clear that he wants those funds moving into our economic recovery," he said.

Palau's Toribiong to reopen consulates on Saipan, Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palau President Johnson Toribiong, left, holds up a quarter roll of CNMI commemorative quarters that were presented him by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), right, during a meeting with the Palauan community on Saipan at the Kilili Beach Pavilion in Susupe yesterday afternoon.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Visiting Palau President Johnson Toribiong said yesterday he will reopen "as soon as possible" the Palau consular offices on Saipan and Guam to be funded under a supplemental Fiscal Year 2010 budget as a result of fresh infusion of direct financial assistance from the United States to the Pacific country.

The Palau Consulates on Saipan and Guam closed on Dec. 31 due to funding constraints.

Toribiong, who is currently on Saipan to attend today's inauguration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, met with some 70 members of the Palauan community on Saipan at the Kilili Beach Pavilion in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

He addressed his constituents in the vernacular. However, in interviews with reporters, Toribiong spoke of his plan to reopen the consulates on Saipan and Guam where thousands of Palauans work and live.

"I wanted them to keep open because Guam is the first point of entry into the United Stated. Now that the CNMI's immigration has been federalized, it, too, will be the first point of entry into the United States so I wanted to keep them open," he said.

The president said he also received letters from Palauans on Saipan and Guam, urging him to do the best he can to reopen both offices.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) also met with Toribiong and the Palauan community. Sablan presented Toribiong with CNMI commemorative coins.

Accompanying Toribiong at the gathering were his chief of staff Isaac Soaladaob and Resources and Development Minister Harry Fritz. Also present at the meeting were former Palau Consul to Saipan Eileen Kintol.

Toribiong, in an interview with reporters, said Palau will get at least an additional $3.1 million in FY 2010.

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Workers' group honors individuals and agencies

Woodruff 'welcomes workers to the U.S.'

The United Workers Movement-NMI on Saturday presented certificates of appreciation to many individuals in the Commonwealth community for their "valuable support" to the plight of guest workers in the CNMI.

Over a hundred alien workers and those with Immediate Relative status with different nationalities attended the "Appreciation Night" initiated by the United Workers Movement-NMI.

PAGE INFO

For photos of the event, go to Page 13.

The event began past 6pm at the American Memorial Park's Amphitheater but rain disrupted the occasion, prompting organizers to move the event to another venue, the AMP's auditorium.

Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown, former Federal Ombudsman James Benedetto, and Rep. Tina Sablan were seen at the amphitheater but they later left due to other engagements. Many other awardees also left due to the rain. Others were not present.

Before allowing people inside the auditorium, Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner announced that only 110 individuals would be let in, explaining policies for the auditorium.

The highlights of the event were multi-cultural dances, songs, a magical show, and a film preview of the alien worker groups' past activities.

Dekada Movement counsel Stephen Woodruff, one of the awardees, commended the workers who continue to push for improved immigration status of long-term alien workers.

Before federalization took place in November, Woodruff said, all people in the CNMI were not considered to be on U.S. soil.

"Now, everyone of you are in the U.S. Welcome to the U.S.," said Woodruff, drawing loud cheers from the audience. "It's been a long, slow, and not an easy road."

The appreciation night was intended to express the worker groups' appreciation to all people who have come together to support and work for improved immigration status by signing petitions, writing letters, joining the Unity March, and participating in many other past assemblies, meetings, forums, and conferences.

United Workers Movement president Rabby Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is happy because they were able to recognize the individuals and agencies for their contributions to contract workers.

Syed said rain was only the problem in Saturday's event.

Aside from Woodruff, other awardees included Ombudsman Brown and her staff, former Ombudsman Benedetto, Rep. Sablan, Park Ranger Kerchner, and lawyers Joe Hill, Mark Hanson, Maya Kara, Joseph Horey, Robert Myers, and Herbert Soll.

Awards were also given to U.S. Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, David Cohen, Allen Stayman, Wendy Doromal, Rod Hodges, Ed Propst, Glenn Hunter, Ken O'Harnett, Jaime Vergara, Ed Del Rosario, Lupe Manglona, Fe Calixterio, Lauri Ogumoro, Sr. Stella Mangona, Edward Salas, Dean Tenorio, Bobbie Sablan, Ruth Tighe, Alam Manzurul, Jerry Custodio, Irene Tantiado, Thess Samson, and Conrad Ocampo.

Certificates of appreciation were also awarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Consulate's staff, U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and staff, and some media members. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NMHC

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Certified Current Financial Statement
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Forms
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY JANUARY 11, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS".

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ **JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO**
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

Cook sues ex-employer for termination, unpaid wages

A cook has filed a lawsuit in federal court against a former employer for alleged non-payment of wages and overtime compensation.

Raja Ram Raut, a Nepalese cook, sued Taro Sue Corp. for violation of the Fair Labor Standard Act and breach of contract.

Raut, through counsel Colin Thompson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Taro Sue to pay him unpaid wages, overtime compensation, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Saipan Tribune contacted Taro Sue yesterday for comment but no one answered the telephone.

Thompson stated in the complaint that, on Jan. 23, 2008 Raut began working for Taro Sue as a cook.

Thompson said that Taro Sue agreed to pay Raut $3.55 per hour and overtime compensation. Raut worked five days a week.

The lawyer said that Taro Sue violated sections 206 and 216 of the FLSA by failing to pay Raut the minimum wage provided by law for all of the hours he had worked each work week.

"The defendant breached the employment contracts by failing to pay plaintiff what he was due under the contracts and by terminating plaintiff's employment without excuse or justification," Thompson said.

The complaint did not indicate the amount of alleged unpaid wages and overtime. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff, -v- MARIANO S. NAPUTI, Defendant.	)))))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-382 THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an order issued by the Court in this matter on November 13, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 15, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of December, 2009:

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**, Auctioneer

ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA COOK-OFF

OFFICIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Eligibility. This contestants who are at least 18 years of age or older and amateurs. Professionals are not eligible to enter. For purposes of this event, "Professionals" are defined as anyone who makes money through professional cooking, including, but not limited to chefs, food editors, home economists, and food preparation editors. Employee of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises and the immediate families of each are not eligible to enter.

2. The ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA Cook-Off will be held at Joeten Susupe on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 1pm and will be limited to twenty (20) contestants. Contest registration will be on a first-come, first serve basis. To enter the contest, individuals must submit their name, address, daytime phone number and recipe; all information is to be typed on a 8.5"x11" sheet of paper, to the J.C. Tenorio Shopping Center offices, Susupe, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. All contestants will be required to sign the Official Rules upon entering the contest. Each contestant may enter only one recipe for one of the following categories: original appetizer, casserole,stew,stir-fry,salad or sandwich. Each recipe entry must use at least one 7-ounce can from the ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA. Last day/time to submit entry forms and recipe is Wednesday, January 15, 2010 at 5pm.

3. Recipes must not have been published and/or cannot have won prizes or awards in other contests and must not restricted in any way. Submission of the recipes gives J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. the right to modify, edit, adapt, publish and/or use the recipe in any way and in any and all media without limitation and without consideration or payment to the entrant.

4. Each participating contestant will be given a Joeten T-shirt. Contestants are encouraged to wear the T-shirt during each competition.

5. Contestants must bring their dish for judging by 12:45pm on January 16, 2010. Any dishes brought in after 12:45PM will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at 1:15pm. Final heating, cooking and presentation preparation may be done at the contest site. Power outlets will be provided. Contestants must bring all required preparation materials such as warming plates,crock pots, etc. The individual who entered the contest must be present at the judging of their dish. Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, originality and overall presentation. The judges will be chosen by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

6. A first, second and third place winner will be selected. The first place winner will received a year supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna (1 case per month ACE DIAMOND TUNA 12/12). The second place winner will receive 6 month supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna. The third place winner will received $50 gift cetificate.

7. All winners will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release that will, among other things, allow the use of winners' name by the sponsors. Failure to comply with this condition will result in forfeiture of prizes. All applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where taxed, restricted or prohibited by law. All taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

8. Interpretation of the contest rules shall be at the sole discretion of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises. Any decisions made shall be binding on all contestants. Judges decisions are final.

9. Contest is sponsored by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises.

10. Contest void where prohibited. All prizes will be awarded. Prizes are nonrefundable, nontransferable, and cannot be redeemed for cash. Winners must consent to use of his/her likeness and/or photograph for advertising purposes without additional compensation. Taxes on prizes are responsibility of the winner. All recipes become the property of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., and will not be returned. J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA COOK-OFF *Competition!*

Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

JOETEN SUSUPE

LIMIT 20 CONTESTANT

WINNERS RECEIVE

1st Place Prize - *1 year supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna*
2nd Place Prize - *6 month supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna*
3rd Place Prize - *$50.00 Joeten Gift Check*

To Enter Print the following:

Your name, address, daytime phone number and ACE of Diamonds Tuna recipe. *On an 8.5x11 sheet and submit to J.C. Tenorio Enterprises at Susupe shopping center. Monday-Friday, 8am.-5pm. For more information please call 234-6446 until Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Categories:

Each contestant may enter only one recipe in one of the following categories:

- ***Original Appetizer***
- ***Casserole***
- ***Stew***
- ***Stir-Fry***
- ***Salad***
- ***Sandwhich***

Demapan: Recommendation vs Govendo not vague

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan has found the recommendation of an investigating judge to go ahead with formal proceedings against Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo to be not vague.

"The requirements for a recommendation of formal proceedings are unambiguous. The investigating judge must specify the alleged violations and the alleged facts that support a conclusion that a violation occurred," said Demapan in an order that denied Govendo's motion for a more definite statement.

The chief justice pointed out that in the recommendation, retired Guam Superior Court judge Richard Benson discuses the facts that led to these proceedings, each likely violation of a rule, and why the facts support a finding of a violation.

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona in November 2008 issued a decision that found Govendo's statements in a family law case against Roger S. Castillo in violation of the "principles of decorum and temperance that the Judicial Canons seek to promote."

The complaint prompted Chief Justice Demapan to appoint Benson to look into Manglona's complaint.

Benson recommended the holding of formal disciplinary proceedings against Govendo for professional misconduct. The hearing was originally scheduled for Dec. 17, 2009, but the Supreme Court reset the hearing for Jan. 20, 2010.

On Dec. 9, 2009, Govendo filed a motion for a more definite statement. He claimed that Benson's recommendation of formal proceedings is too vague.

Govendo asked the Supreme Court to order the special ethics prosecutor to specify the act or acts he is alleged to have committed.

Govendo asked that the special ethics prosecutor specify the dates, times and case numbers of any matters that will be used as a basis for the allegation. The judge also wanted a list of any witness that will testify.

In denying the motion, Demapan said that Benson's recommendation did find that the alleged exchange between Govendo and Castillo during a family court proceeding likely violated several other Code of Judicial Conduct Canons and rules of judicial conduct applicable to judges in the Commonwealth.

Demapan said the recommendation goes into detail to discuss which Canons and rules were likely violated as a result of this exchange.

"For all these possible violations, the recommendation provided more than enough information to protect Judge Govendo's due process rights," he said.

The chief justice noted that the recommendation stated the facts that led to the charges being filed, all the statements at issue with their case citations, and the rules that were allegedly violated.

Benson's recommendation, he said, explained why those facts support a finding that a violation occurred.

"This information is more than adequate to allow Judge Govendo to prepare and defend himself at the hearing," Demapan said.

He said the information contained in the recommendation meets the requirements specified in the Rules of Disciplinary Procedure Rule 18(a).

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re Estate of GEORGE A. MANGLONA, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1061

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property:

1. Lot 002 T 25. The Estate owns an area of 921 square meters more or less, in fee simple, subject to a lease expiring on October 27, 2042.
2. Lot 114 T 16. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to a lease expiring on September 18, 2044.
3. Lot 057 T 18. This lot contains an area of 10,000 square meters, and is owned by the Estate in fee simple.
4. Lot 006 T 186. The Estate owns a leasehold interest in this lot, which expires on June 18, 2046. No further rental is due under lease.
5. Lot 008 T 85. This lot contains an area of 901 square meters. The Estate owns a leasehold interest in the lot, which expires on July 21, 2047. No further rent is due.
6. Lot 006 T 17. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to a lease expiring on October 8, 2049.
7. Lot 001 T 22. This lot contains an area of 1,448 square meters, and is owned by the Estate in fee simple. The lot is subject to mortgages in favor of Pacific Financial Corporation (now known as the Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc.) and the Commonwealth Development Authority. The proceeds of sale will be applied toward reducing the balances due upon these mortgages.
8. Lot 035 T 18. The Estate owns an undivided 992 square meters of this lot, in fee simple.
9. Lot 035 T 19. This lot contains an area of 4,000 square meters, and is owned by the Estate in fee simple.
10. Lot 114 T 18. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to a prepaid lease expiring on September 18, 2044.

All of these properties are situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. All sales are subject to court approval.

Preliminary title reports are available for inspection at the office of the undersigned, by appointment only.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 15, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 17th day of December, 2009:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F-0122
Attorney for Administrator

Invitation for Bids IFB10-GOV-034

Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **December 21, 2009.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **January 8, 2010**, at the CNMI Water **Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.**

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, January 6, 2010**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked **"IFB10-GOV-034"**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m**. local time, **January 20, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **January 20, 2010,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 20, 2010,** and must be received no later than **January 29, 2010.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **January 29, 2010**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **January 21, 2010**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JAN. 11, 1999

902 agenda set

The Northern Marianas has accepted the proposal of Washington to hold the 902 consultations next week after almost a year of delay in resuming bilateral talks aimed at resolving differences in the handling of local and immigration laws. Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the CNMI 902 team, wrote to President Bill Clinton's top aide, Edward B. Cohen, agreeing to suggestions to begin the four-day informal discussions on January 19. Cohen is to arrive on Saipan on January 18. In a letter dated January 6, Sablan told his US counterpart that dialogs with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association have been scheduled in addition to his meetings with local officials during the visit.

MVA cautions feds on takeover bid

The Marianas Visitors Authority has cautioned the federal government against pushing for a takeover of labor and immigration laws of the Northern Marianas because it will severely hamper efforts to revive the half-a-billion-dollar tourism industry which has been battered by the Asian financial crisis. Amid continued threats of a federal takeover, the tourism agency will continue its mandated task of promoting the CNMI as an ideal destination in the Pacific. "I will not allow that to bother us but the U.S. government will have to pay for the expected earnings in tourism if they continue to push for the takeover," according to Dave M. Sablan, board chairman.

JAN. 11, 2000

Deficit down by $10-M in FY 99

Drastic austerity measures by the government, including cut in overtime and professional services, resulted in a $10 million reduction in the worsening budget deficit, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. In a preliminary financial report submitted to the presiding officers of the Legislature covering Fiscal Year 1999, the governor said cumulative budget deficit declined $70.7 million from the record $80.6 million posted in FY 98. Government finance officials are projecting a further decline in the deficit in Fiscal Year 2000 which they said could be obtained through tighter fiscal discipline and economic revitalization efforts.

Teno asks Clinton to halt federal takeover plan

Disputing allegations of failed labor and immigration reforms in the CNMI, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has appealed to President Clinton against pushing federal takeover legislation in the U.S. Congress in a move he said will result to an economic catastrophe on the island. He also refuted claims made by his special representative to the 902 talks, Edward B. Cohen, to justify fresh bid to strip the Commonwealth its powers to control local immigration, minimum wage and custom standards. The governor said contrary to the allegations contained in a report from Mr. Cohen submitted to President Clinton, his administration is committed to taking "all feasible steps" to deal with Washington's concerns on its labor and immigration.

JAN. 11, 2001

Customs' amnesty program flops

Nobody is apparently paying attention to that little box sitting for almost seven years now at one corner of the Saipan International Airport's arrival area, just before the place where the Customs' clearance section is situated. It may be because nobody is aware that it has been there for several years now or nobody really understands what that "amnesty box" is for. There was never a time—since the amnesty box was placed by the CNMI Division of Customs at the arrival area of the Saipan International Airport about seven years ago—did officers find anything inside the box dropped by arriving passengers, according to Director Joe Mafnas.

Govt drafting regs on tax incentive law

The Commonwealth Development Authority and the Division of Taxation and Revenue have started crafting the implementing guidelines for a recently enacted law which grants tax incentives to new investments and existing businesses under a qualifying certificate program. CDA Executive Director Marylou S. Ada said they intend to have the implementing rules and regulations for the Public Law 12-32, also known as the Investment Incentive Act, published in the Commonwealth Register by next month. Ms. Ada, along with officials from the Division of Taxation and Revenue led by Rufin Inos, met with economic and taxation officials from Guam to see how the neighboring island went about its own qualifying certificate program.

Fitial's inauguration today marks many 'firsts'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will take his oath of office at 3pm today to mark his second term in office.

In an interview right after the Inaugural Red Mass yesterday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral, Fitial said his inaugural speech today will again talk about the CNMI economy, factoring such issues as federalization and foreign investment.

"I feel very overwhelmed. This is a very, very encouraging gesture from the public," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* as hundreds came to personally greet him and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos after the Red Mass, which filled the church to capacity yesterday.

Fitial, 64, is the first to win the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election.

He is also only the second governor in CNMI history to be re-elected, and the first and probably the only governor to serve a five-year term because of a ratified initiative requiring general elections to be held only on even-numbered years.

Inos, for his part, is also the first appointed lieutenant governor in CNMI history, but received a direct mandate from the people when he was elected into office in November.

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa officiated the Red Mass.

"I encourage them to listen to the community, and to follow the culture and the teaching of our ancestors," the bishop said when asked about his advice to Fitial and Inos.

Families and supporters in formal attire crowded the Mount Carmel Cathedral's altar to greet Fitial and Inos, and to have their photos taken with the CNMI's top elected officials.

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Perry Inos will be administering the oath for Fitial and Inos at 3pm today at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Among the Micronesian leaders, federal officials and dignitaries attending the inauguration include Palau President Johnson Toribiong, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and first lady Joann Camacho, Federated States of Micronesia Vice President Alik Alik, FSM Consul General Jackson Gerson, Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert J. Torres, former Guam Gov. Paul Calvo, Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs at the Interior Tony M. Babauta, Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Following the inauguration is an invitation-only, black tie VIP Ball at 6pm also at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

At the same time, a suit-and-tie People's Ball will be held at the Fiesta Resort in Garapan.

The 17th Legislatures will also hold their organizational sessions at 10am today.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos at the conclusion of the inaugural Red Mass yesterday afternoon at the Mount Carmel Cathedral, which was filled to capacity. Fitial and Inos will be sworn in at 3pm today at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-038

A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11,2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Puerto Rico Transmission and Distribution, RFP10-GOV-038".** One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-GOV-039

A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 11, 2010**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **January 25, 2010**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

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Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvements, RFP10-GOV-039"**. One (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 10, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Safety first: There's nothing to fear from airport full-body scanners

Ever since Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab allegedly tried to blow up Northwest Flight 253 with explosives in his underwear, a debate has begun anew over the use and usefulness of full-body scanning technology that would have detected his secret cargo. The privacy concerns raised by these machines are understandable. But the precautions taken at every step to guard passenger privacy should allay any fears.

There are two kinds of "full-body" scanners in use by the Transportation Security Administration, the millimeter wave and the backscatter. Passengers using the millimeter-wave machines spend up to 40 seconds having their bodies scanned. The image produced is three-dimensional and looks like a fuzzy negative. Facial features are blurred. But the shape and contour of one's body are easily made out as the radio waves bounce off skin to create an image that allows screeners to check for concealed material that might be under clothing.

The TSA has ordered 150 backscatter scanners. These machines emit low-level X-rays at a passenger going through them. The result is a body image that looks like a chalk etching. Over the next year, the TSA plans to order another 300 scanners.

The TSA takes extra precautions to ensure the privacy of air travelers. The security screener with the passenger cannot see the image that's created. The picture goes directly to a secure and remote place where it is examined by TSA personnel who cannot see the passenger. The two TSA screeners communicate by wireless headset. Once the traveler has been cleared, the image is automatically deleted. According to the agency, the machine's ability to store, print, transmit or save the images is disabled when it is delivered to the airport. And here's one last precaution: Officers in that remote screening room are prohibited from bringing in cellphones, cameras or any device with a camera.

There are now just 40 millimeter-wave imaging scanners in operation at 19 airports, including Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Considering Mr. Abdulmutallab's success at getting a concealed explosive aboard an aircraft, thought must be given to making full-body scans a mandatory and primary security screen. The House passed an amendment last June proposed by Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah that prohibited this. The Chaffetz amendment has yet to pass the Senate—and it shouldn't.

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Univearthsity

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

"I have a dream," MLK Jr. prophesied. Last night, I dreamt of 12 chairs set around a roundtable. Occupying the seats in this escena are Edu Banaag, Galvin DlGuerrero, Carmen Gaskins, Cynthia Kaipat, Janet King, Alex Sablan, Tina Sablan, Jerry Tan, Robert Torres, Ralph Torres, and Christian Wei, talking about establishing a Univearth Multiversity—UM, aka, the University of the Marianas—an umbrella body inclusive of all existing institutions of learning in the Marianas that chooses to relate.

In western civilization, Plato's Academy is considered the first school; the Renaissance *Madrasahs* in Islamic Spain preceded the European universities that evolved into the today's research centers—Oxford and Cambridge, Yale and Harvard, Sorbonne and Uppsala, Princeton and Duke, Stanford and Berkeley, UCLA and USC. UM is at once a hybrid and a unique creation.

The history of Universities is traceable to the shifts in the human mind when it reimaged the nature of the universe and the human enterprise. For such a turn as ours, we are ripe to transform humanity's course, and reinvent the human. Of the universe and from the earth comes the Univearth!

We know that the glocalization (think global, act local) of the planet is fraught with shortsightedness at best, and abuse at worst. The corporate rush to move business to cheap labor, as was done in Midwest USA, or to the importation of cheap labor, as was the case in the CNMI, proved to have dire consequences to the destinations. Concurrent exploitation of natural resources without a view to sustainability and waste management has been dismal, if not criminal. Now, Pacific islanders shake in fear of climate warming! Unbridled gamble on investments Ponzied us into a global recession.

The Univearth Multiversity emerges out of the Ecozoic Era, which is "a time when humans live in a mutually enhancing relationship with the larger community of life systems," according to Herman Greene of the Center of Ecozoic Studies. The term "ecozoic" comes from Thomas Berry whose book with Brianne Swinne, *The Universe Story,* has been interpreted to mean that we "think Universe, act Earth!" The new human no longer lives on Earth, s/he is the Earth who lives in the Universe!

To conceive of a Univearth Multiversity is, therefore, to think creatively of a continuing process of learning, to go beyond just the transmittal of past wisdoms, or mere statistical measures of contemporary insights, or even anticipating the future through analyses of trends. It is in fact an ongoing polylogue of humans while they build the road where all of humanity journey.

In my dream, a second set of 24 chairs circles the first 12, a third layer has 48, and a fourth sit 96. That made a total of 180. Extra 192 chairs were on standby lest a fifth layer of seats were needed. A full house totaled 372. The seating in the dream was a semicircle mirror-imaged without disruption. Power in the middle of the table is available to whoever wants to wield it.

Behind the first circle were folks like Larry DLGuerrero and former public officials, Hanson, Kara, Woodruff and other barristers, NMC stakeholders in dialectics, Pellegrino associates, MCV-ST-MV media gangs, the Willen-Siemer tandem and other "expats," sitting and retired justices, BoE members, Greg Cruz' *taotao tanos,* Lino Olopai's *taotao tasis*, Uncles Ben and Eloy with executives, Lang and legislators, disability advocates, Acha baby, and a Hofschnieder, Tenorio, Manglona, Mafnas, Cabrera, Aguon, Palacios, Mendiola, to name a few.

There are four disciplines proposed for the Multiversity. Basic are the Objective Sciences of measureable and verifiable matters. Next are Reflective Studies, emotive, expressive and relational. Then are the Interpretive Analyses, integrative and comprehensive. Decisional models make the fourth, indicative, strategic and futuric. No discipline is more important than another. They are interrelated, accountable solely to the spirit of Rabindranath Tagore's task: (paraphrased) "to empower the glocal to meet their own requirements."

A suggestion, e.g., that GovCNMI would be a practicum for UM's School of Government had three experienced Uncles nodding their heads. Persons on the inner 12 chairs are not permanent, they can cede their seats to colleagues who wish to speak, e.g., Tina Sablan letting Stanley Torres air his exhortations!

Tech-savvy PSS had Rita Sablan and SSHS' Craig Garrison guiding participants in the use of LCD tablets where respondents wrote 3-5 word phrases in response to the group's brainstorming flashed on an HD surround board where responses were gestalted into categories. Local TechWiz barefoot Ron Smith wired each chair to a common messaging board, and also worked on a 372 virtual template so that the moderated conversation can go on 24/7 online.

In the dream, I was the voice that followed an "I disagree" response with "so tell us how you see it differently," to underscore that there are no right and wrong responses, only different ones that vie for relevance. With Smith, we regulated virtual chair traffic, managed the sound system, queued speakers, and directed inputs into the digital flashboard. (It's my dream, neh, so "s/he who sees the need does the deed," is the operating principle in role assignments!)

Edu Banaag who is still in high school asked: "Can we make this happen so that when I am asked where I went to school, I can claim Univearthsity alumnus status?" That's when I woke up and realized I was dreaming.

The dreaming goes on. BenEloy partnered with HP/ha this week. Unity marchers affirmed their collaboration in the creation of our common island humanity even as 24 alleged Guam-crashers desperately contemplate their fate behind bars. Newly elected GovCNMI officials get sworn in beginning today. I can see a new day! And what's this Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation education application form doing on my desk? Perhaps, it is time to dream Univearthsity on the plain of reality!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't connect every dot: Instead, get the information to someone who can act

By JENNIFER SIMS and BOB GALLUCCI
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

According to the Obama administration and its critics, U.S. intelligence agencies have a problem with information-sharing. Although this critique appears to have some merit, theory and history suggest our most recent intelligence failure is of another kind. Intelligence-sharing sounds good if we imagine the happy project of dot-connecting. But the concept sounds bad, and risky, if it more resembles the game of Telephone, in which critical information is rather predictably dropped or garbled as it is passed around. The question is: How do we get good, actionable information to the decision maker in time to make a difference?

Sharing information is not a cost-free enterprise: It takes time to pass information and time for "the community" to analyze and interpret data. Intelligence succeeds not when it paints a complete picture but when it lubricates choice—that is, when it helps key policy-makers or military officers act faster or smarter than their adversaries. Former director of national intelligence Mike McConnell recognized this point in his strategic document "Vision 2015," issued in July 2008. He identified the intelligence mission as one of gaining competitive advantage, not perfect knowledge of the enemy, an approach his successor has maintained. The purpose is not to know everything—an impossible goal in any case. The purpose is to win.

To win against a networked adversary, the intelligence community must share critical information with decision-makers but not always with every element of its own community first. Assembling "puzzles" from many pieces is often necessary for planning and strategy; it takes time and the meticulous management of databases by analytical experts. But for day-to-day operations, decision-makers often hold as many or more pieces than intelligence agencies do and certainly know better from moment to moment what knowledge they need to act. In terms of tactical decisions, sharing among intelligence agencies so that an "all source" product can be generated can be a form of hoarding. It can result in finished analyses that are irrelevant, unhelpful or even harmful to national security.

To understand why, consider a historical example. During the Civil War, Gen. George McClellan uncharacteristically chased down his adversary before the Battle of Antietam largely because of one soldier's intelligence coup: the discovery of a discarded copy of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Special Order 191, wrapped around some cigars. This order revealed how Lee intended to divide his forces and where he planned to go. Although McClellan bungled the chase, history records Antietam as a win for the Union. One excellent source delivered by one trusted collector motivated McClellan to act in a way that was not perfect but was more right than wrong. He didn't know everything about Lee's situation, but he knew what he needed to know to act faster than Lee had anticipated.

To win against a networked adversary, the intelligence community must share critical information with decision-makers but not always with every element of its own community first.

Yet if this instance suggests that single, timely tips can be enough, psychological research suggests that intelligence-sharing can be downright bad. Psychology professor Daniel Gilbert observed in his best-selling book, "Stumbling on Happiness," that the only thing worse than looking for a needle in a haystack is looking for a particular needle in a stack of needles. So when an intelligence establishment composed of at least 16 federal agencies, supported by a raft of state and local law enforcement agencies, mandates an obligation to share information with each other, we shouldn't be surprised when the most critical pieces are harder, not easier, for analysts to identify. This is where proximity to decisions makes a difference. Take, for example, airline ticket agents. They might not judge a father's anxiety about his son enough to stop the son from flying, but knowing this clue when the son offers up cash to fly baggage-free could trigger timely action. Holding up the delivery of the first clue until the arrival of the second cedes decision advantage to the adversary, because the decision is made at the airline counter, not back in Washington.

To win in network warfare, then, decision-makers must think of themselves as collectors and analysts, too. In real-world terms, this means that ambassadors and intelligence station chiefs who know their sources are good should be able immediately to flag a name for airlines and counselor officers without first circulating information within the intelligence community.

It is worth remembering that Gen. Joseph Hooker, a later leader of the Union Army, was the architect of the first all-source intelligence bureau, the Bureau of Military Information, but nonetheless suffered a devastating loss at Chancellorsville. Intelligence-sharing helped him plan that battle and achieve initial surprise, but the all-source analysts couldn't keep up with the wily maneuvers of Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. For that, Hooker needed a match for Jackson's cavalry, which did intelligence on the fly. He didn't have it, and he lost.

Jennifer Sims is a visiting professor at Georgetown University and a senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Bob Gallucci, president of the MacArthur Foundation, served as an assistant secretary of state in the Clinton administration. Sims has consulted for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence under Dennis C. Blair and Mike McConnell.

Letter to the Editor

Bring back academic programs to Tinian

Dear Ms. Janet King: I am writing this letter to you as a former NMC student to ask for your help in bringing back the academic programs to Tinian. As one who listens to the cries of others who have just graduated from high school and are not considering military careers, I hear, see, and have encountered enough to know that it is impossible for us who don't have enough money to attend NMC on Saipan. Yes, there are scholarships and Pell grants but do these pay the baby sitter, my books, housing, food, transportation, tutoring, supplies, medical needs, etc.? I bet if you do a survey among all high school students and former college student who are on island, you're going to find out that a majority of us are low income and can't afford to go to school off island. Some of us are only making enough to pay for utility reconnection and other bills. Another problem is that many of us have just been familiarized with the career search program, which could have helped select what type of courses we need to take. Yes, there is an online college, but many of us don't have Internet or computer. We have to go and pay for a computer and Internet access. Is this fair?

Also, many government and private employees want to upgrade their skills to help them perform better but they cannot afford to pay for their education, travel, transportation, housing, and others. Also, the Office of Personnel Management and private companies that are now hiring require a diploma and training certifications.

How are we going to get a job if we don't have the experience, diploma, and certification? They said locals are a priority in hiring, but how many of us have the skills to work? NMC claims that they don't have enough clients and not enough money to pay for instructors. Well, it's not that they don't have enough clients or money; it's the person who is running the system. They are not doing their job.

I for one applied for services at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for my son, and when they asked him if he wants to work, he said yes. He also asked if they can help him go to college and get training or educated in the career he wants. Does OVR know about NMC and the things they have to help my son? No. Why? Because they said NMC doesn't offer the course he wanted; they only have education and nursing.

You know, by just using my common sense, I figured out why NMC is having accreditation problems. It's because the president doesn't know everything that goes on in the college and the staff does not work together so that they can make things better. If everyone there knows what their responsibilities are and are working together as a team, this institution wouldn't have to worry about accreditation. If they work together as a team to offer the education that we need, I am sure that when the accreditation team steps in, NMC shouldn't have a problem.

If you're a student too and would like to make a move to bring back the academic program to Tinian, join me and call 433 2577. It is time that we speak up for ourselves because nobody knows better than you what your needs are.

Winifreda Matsumoto
San Jose Village, Tinian

Welcome US federal officials

I would like to welcome visitors and U.S. government official to Saipan for Gov. Fitial's inauguration ceremony.

U.S. government employees should be aware that the $1,000 a plate black-tie dinner is funded by donations from the CNMI private sector, and a U.S. government employee should not accept such a gratuity. U.S. government employees should also be careful accepting free tours, or as I call them, the Jack Abramoff tour of Saipan, where ladies and scuba diving are optional.

Team Abramoff is quite effective in compromising the integrity of public officials with gifts, lavish dinners, tickets, and money, according to 18 or so felons giving testimony in the most shocking abuse of power scandal in U.S. history.

U.S. taxpayer's may prefer and expect you to investigate the accuracy of the administration's disingenuous testimony to DHS regarding regulations for guest workers. The governor's special legal counsel suggested ID cards for all aliens to be carried at all times.

The South African government instituted a similar policy about a century ago and burning his ID card was Gandhi's initial act of civil disobedience. Adolf Hitler later ordered a similar ID program be required for residents of Jewish ancestry; by wearing gold stars of David as armbands at all times.

Surely, America would never again allow the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to move in such a shameful direction.

Ron Hodges
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Balancing the scales

There's been some confusion as to whom I thanked and why, in last Friday's letter to the editor. Please let me clarify. The focus was on the House members of the 16th Commonwealth Legislature, for their magnanimity in passing House Resolution 16-104

But I did note that there was another document, which CNMI's non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives read into the Congressional Record. I also thanked those involved in that effort.

In making lists, one always runs the risk of leaving out something or someone important, and I fell prey to that in my list of thank-yous. I inadvertently overlooked a very critical name, that of CNMI Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, who introduced the resolution in my honor, kept it alive, honed its content, managed to garner the support of all but one of the rest of the House members, and finally, made the final presentation. Please accept my most abject apologies!

I should, in the same vein, have thanked U.S. Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, who not only read his commendation into the Record, but then held a brief ceremony upon his return to Saipan to present a framed version to me in person. My apologies to him as well.

I should also have recognized long-time friend Ivan Propst, who initiated the whole thing on the local level, as Chailang Palacios had on the national level.

I trust this balances the scales.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

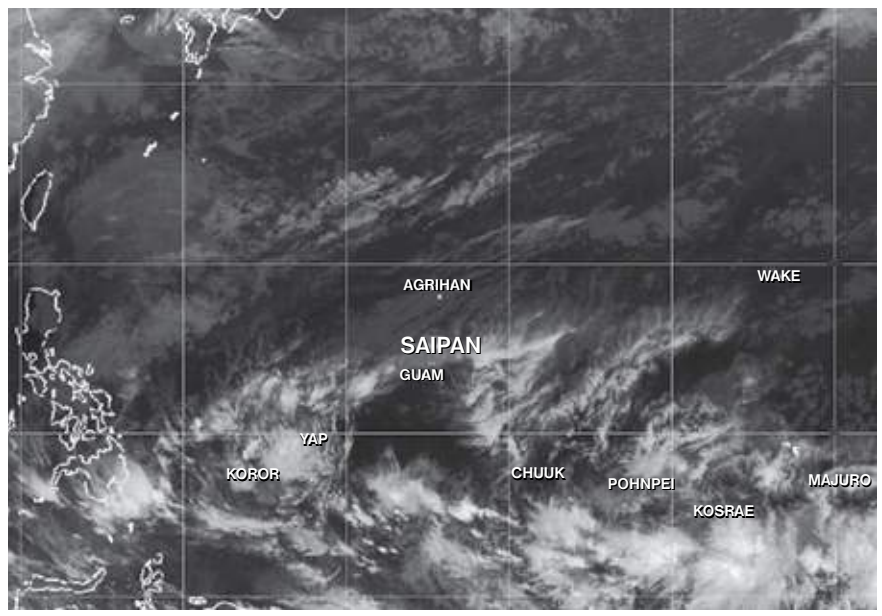
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲82	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲88	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲65	▼58
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲25	▼ 9
Hong Kong	Showers	▲66	▼54
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼68
London	Flurries	▲34	▼30
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼50
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲103	▼78
Miami	Cloudy	▲63	▼50
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼26
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼37
Paris	Cold	▲28	▼27
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲40	▼19
Rome	Showers	▲44	▼38
Salem	Rain	▲50	▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲27	▼10
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼36
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼26

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends east-northeastward from 10N130E across the Mariana Islands to 15N150E to just south of Wake Island at 17N167E to beyond 180 at 20N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are within 150 miles of the shear line from 130E to 163E and within 100 miles of the shear line east of 173E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Palau and Yap within 70 miles of a line from 9N137E to 8N138E and southwest of Chuuk within 50 miles of a line from 6N143E to 5N148E and near Pohnpei within 50 miles of a line from 8N158E to 7N161E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation south of Pohnpei at 2N156E to beyond 180 at 2N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are in an area from southeast of Chuuk eastward across Tarawa or south of 5N from 152E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
3:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:10 AM	2:36 PM
Tuesday	4:04 AM	3:27 PM
Wednesday	4:57 AM	4:20 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	5:12 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:04 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 22, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA	6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA	8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Island Snapshots

INSTALLATION DINNER
Members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce gather at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside Saturday night for the installation of the 2010 Board of Directors.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

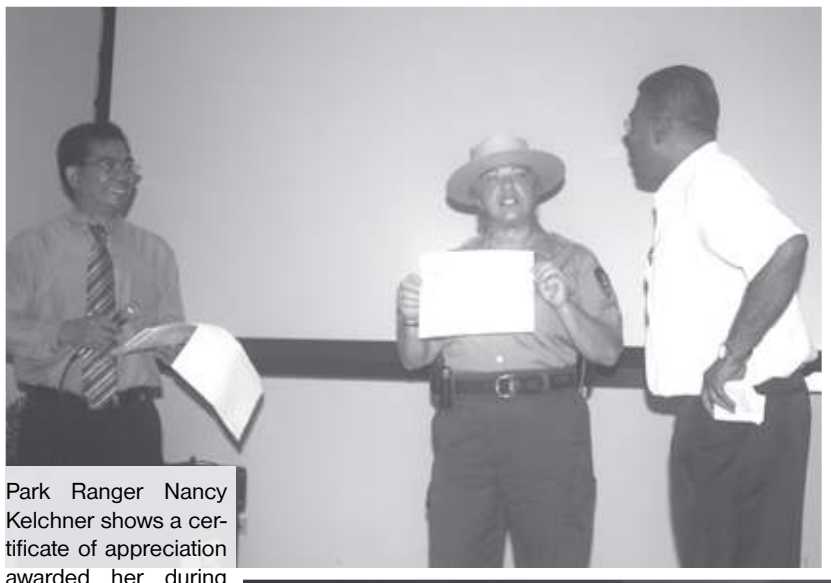
2005 Businessperson of the Year and Saipan Chamber of Commerce board member David M. Sablan Sr., left, poses with newly installed 2010 Chamber president Douglas Brennan at the Chamber's installation dinner Saturday night.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

2009 Businessperson of the Year Vicente "Ben" M. Babauta, left, poses with former Chamber president and now vice president James "Jim" T. Arenovski at the Chamber's installation dinner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan poolside on Saturday night.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

2009 Businessperson of the Year Vicente "Ben" M. Babauta, second from right, is flanked by his wife Linda, third from right-front row, and colleagues at DFS Saipan Ltd.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

APPRECIATION NIGHT
Bayani members perform a Filipino cultural dance.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner shows a certificate of appreciation awarded her during the United Workers Movment's "Appreciation Night" on Saturday. Also in the photo are UWM's president Rabby Syed and PIL-COWA president Jun Concillado.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Dekada Movement counsel Stephen Woodruff receives a certificate of appreciation from United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed and activist Malou Berueco.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Bangladeshi dance group members entertain the audience with their cultural dance.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

PALAU PRESIDENT
Republic of Palau President Johnson Toribiong addresses some 70 members of the Palauan community on Saipan yesterday afternoon. Toribiong is here to also attend today's inauguration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Alien workers and those with Immediate Relative status, along with some residents, fill the American Memorial Park's auditorium where the United Workers Movement's "Appreciation Night" was held Saturday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Business

Govt health insurance option appears doomed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senior House Democrats have largely abandoned hopes of including a government-run insurance option in the final compromise health care bill taking shape, according to several officials, and are pushing for other measures to rein in private insurers.

Obama

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other senior Democrats told President Barack Obama in recent meetings they want the legislation to strip the insurance industry of a long-standing exemption from federal antitrust laws, officials said. That provision is in the House-passed measure, but was omitted from the bill that the Senate passed on Christmas Eve.

They also want the final measure to include a House-passed proposal for a nationwide insurance exchange, to be regulated by the federal government, where consumers could shop for private coverage. The Senate bill calls for a state-based system of exchanges.

Additionally, House Democrats want to require insurers to spend a minimum amount of premium income on benefits, thereby limiting what is available for salaries, bonuses, advertising and other items. The House bill sets the floor at 85 percent; the Senate-passed measure lowers it to 80 percent for policies sold to small groups and individuals.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are private.

The maneuvering comes as the White House and majority Democrats intensify efforts to agree on a final measure, possibly before Obama delivers his State of the Union address late this month or early in February.

Government intervention into the insurance market is one of the most contentious issues to be settled. Others include the fate of a Senate-passed tax on high-cost insurance plans, bitterly opposed by some labor unions; the extent to which abortions could be covered by insurance to be sold in the new exchanges; and the amount of money available to help lower-income families purchase coverage.

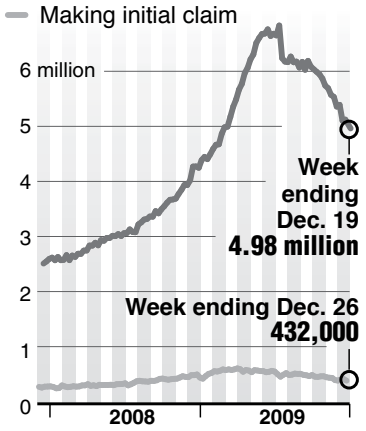
Liberals long have pressed to include a government-run insurance option in the legislation, arguing it would create competition for private companies and place a brake on costs.

House Democrats included it in their legislation. In the Senate, it drew opposition from Democratic moderates whose votes are essential to the bill's fate. Even attempts to include an expansion of Medicare for uninsured individuals as young as age 55—widely viewed as a face-saving proposal for liberals—had to be jettisoned.

Given the opposition in the Senate, Pelosi, D-Calif., signaled late last year she did not view a public option as a requirement for a final compromise.

Out of work

Both the number of newly laid-off workers seeking jobless benefits and the total number on jobless rolls fell last week.



NOTE: Report on continuing claims lags initial claims by one week
Source: U.S. Department of Labor © **2009 MCT**

Report: Slight cost increase in Senate health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate's plan to expand health coverage to 34 million more Americans would raise costs slightly, government economic experts said in a report Saturday.

Over time, cost-cutting measures could start to reduce the annual increases in health care spending, offering the possibility of substantial savings in the long run. At the same time, however, some of the Senate's Medicare savings could be unrealistic and cause lawmakers to roll them back, according to Medicare's top number crunchers.

The study found that health spending, which accounts for about one-sixth of the economy, would go up by less than 1 percent more than it otherwise would have increased over the coming decade, even with so many more people receiving coverage.

The study found that health spending, which accounts for about one-sixth of the economy, would increase by less than 1 percent than it otherwise would over the coming decade even with so many more people receiving coverage.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the report shows the Senate bill would slow the rate of health care costs, strengthen Medicare and provide millions more people with insurance coverage.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing rethinking plans for short-range 787

CHICAGO (AP)—Boeing Co. is reevaluating plans for a short-range version of its 787 airplane after the sole airline with pending orders went with other Boeing models instead. Randy Tinseth, vice president of marketing for Boeing's commercial airplanes division, wrote in a company blog that Boeing will "continue to assess the market viability" of the 787-3, a model that Boeing describes as a "super-efficient airplane" aimed at the middle of the market. Boeing says the plane uses 20 percent less fuel than other planes of its size, and seats 290 to 330 passengers and has a range of 2,500 to 3,050 nautical miles. Boeing has poured billions of dollars into developing the family of the sleek blue-and-white 787 jetliners, which feature radical departures from other planes in design to make the planes quieter, lighter and less fuel-thirsty.

Genentech says FDA approves Actemra arthritis drug

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (AP)—Biotechnology company Genentech Inc. says the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved its new drug to treat rheumatoid arthritis. The approval of the drug, Actemra, "marks a major step forward" in the treatment of the disease, Hal Barron, chief medical officer for Genentech and its parent company, the Roche Group, said in a statement. Development of the drug involved five Phase 3 clinical studies and more than 4,000 participants in 41 countries, Genentech said. Actemra works by blocking the effect of a certain protein associated with inflammation. But because Actemra acts to suppress the immune system, it can also have serious side effects, including severe infections, liver abnormalities and damage to digestive organs.

Venezuela weakens currency for 1st time in 5 years

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez' decision to devalue Venezuela's currency for the first time in nearly five years aims to stretch his government's oil earnings further and counter a recession by increasing spending. The devaluation of the bolivar lessens a wide gap with the black-market exchange rate for dollars and will unavoidably push inflation—already the highest in Latin America at 25 percent—to even higher levels. Opposition leaders on Saturday called the devaluation a blow to Venezuelans that will make them pay through inflation while letting the government instantly convert its oil earnings into more cash domestically to boost spending ahead of congressional elections.

Nexus One first impression: A sleek Google phone, worthy vs. iPhone

By Frank Michael Russell
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Call it the Google challenge: After a few hours with the new Nexus One, would this longtime Apple fan be willing to trade in his iPhone? The short answer: It's very, very tempting.

The Mountain View, Calif., Internet giant loaned the San Jose Mercury News a Nexus One running on T-Mobile's 3G network. The phone actually is made by Taiwan-based HTC. At first glance, it's so sleek, stylish and sexy, we were almost wondering: Where's the Apple logo?

The user interface—powered by the Android 2.1 operating system—is attractive—in a minimalist, functional and Google-esque manner. Initially, it's not very intuitive, but it doesn't take long to learn.

One nifty feature is a tiny trackball. Once you get used to it, the trackball makes navigating Web pages speedy—and prevents fingerprint smudges on the 3.7-inch touch-screen.

At first, I assumed the trackball was like the iPhone's home button, but instead, the Nexus One has a "home" icon, one of four lining the bottom of the screen. The other three are "back," "menu" and (of course, it's Google!) "search."

Mike Swift, who covers Google for the Mercury News, set up the phone in just a couple of minutes with his existing Google account and downloaded several apps from the Android Market.

I tested Web browsing; checking news, weather, e-mail and Facebook; and using Google Maps navigation for a quick walk from the Mercury News to our nearest corporate coffee chain. All performed as well as my iPhone and with the agility you'd expect from Google.

Many of the apps allow for voice control. A test e-mail I sent using voice technology unfortunately wasn't exactly what I said. However, voice searches for MercuryNews.com and "finance-dot-google-dot-com" took me exactly where I wanted to go.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS
A color illustration of a Google phone and an Apple phone getting ready to punch it out in a boxing ring.

NEXUS ONE

- What I like: Sleek, sexy styling; functional, minimalistic interface; tiny trackball; listening to Pandora and checking Facebook at the same time.
- What I don't like: Sometimes balky touch screen; not quite as intuitive as the iPhone; weird "Nexus One" name.
- If you want one: Go to www.google.com/phone. It"ll cost you $179 with a two-year T-Mobile contract or $529 "unlocked." If you can wait a few months, you can get it with a Verizon contract.

You can use the touch-screen keyboard for e-mail and other apps, but that can be awkward (just like with the iPhone). The Nexus One (again like the iPhone) helps out by suggesting complete words as you type.

I downloaded Pandora, the free music service, from the Android Market. The phone warned that Pandora puts a heavy strain on the wireless network—so you'd want to make sure you have an unlimited data plan. Downloads also inform you what personal data they need to work.

Google pre-loaded some music on the test phone, and you can buy downloads from Amazon.com's MP3 store. Music streamed at a fidelity comparable to what I'm used to from the iPhone. And as I listened to Pandora while checking Facebook, it suddenly occurred to me: I can't do this on my iPhone.

(By the way, the Nexus One is perfectly adequate as a phone, although I didn't have a chance to test the voice connection very far from the Mercury News.)

A couple of negatives: The touch-screen itself was balky at times, which was frustrating for someone used to the iPhone's responsiveness. And the name! "Nexus One" sounds more like a bad science fiction movie from the early '80s than a cutting-edge "superphone," as Google calls it.

You can buy one at www.google.com/phone for $529 unlocked—meaning you can use it month to month on any compatible network—or for $179 with a two-year T-Mobile contract. Verizon Wireless plans to offer it in the spring.

Oddly enough, this writer (recently sprung from a contract with AT&T) is in the market for a smart new phone. I might very well buy a new iPhone, but a few hours with the Nexus One has made that a much harder decision.

Nation

Cold stuns Floridians, causes deaths elsewhere

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Mark and Barbara Willard were at home in Wickford, England two weeks ago checking the weather forecast on the Internet before packing for their trip to Orlando—sunny and 70 degrees.

On Saturday afternoon they had the hoods on their brand new coats pulled tight around their heads as the walked down the International Drive tourist strip. The weather: 35 degrees and cloudy with a chance of icy rain or even snow.

"The good news is two days after we go home we're off to Jamaica," said Mark Willard.

The bad news is they paid in advance for theme park tickets and instead spent more time at shopping malls buying winter clothing—a few hundred dollars worth, he said.

Across Florida, the weather was freakishly cold for a state that's a winter respite for so many. There were snow flurries spotted in several parts of the state, as far south as Naples on the gulf coast. In Miami, the temperature was forecast to drop just below freezing overnight and threatened to break the record for low temperatures in the city.

In suburban Atlanta, which has seen an unusually long stretch of low temperatures, two teens died Saturday after falling through the ice on a partially frozen pond. The surviving teen was in fair condition at Gwinnett Medical Center, said hospital spokeswoman Andrea Wehrmann.

The two boys who died were in the frigid water for nearly an hour before rescuers could reach them, said Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services Capt. Tommy Rutledge. He said the three, ages 13 to 15, were playing and sliding on the semi-frozen pond when the ice broke.

Just the day before, Rutledge said the department issued a warning that that local ponds, lakes and streams might look more icy than normal, but they still aren't solid enough to be safe. "Even though it looks inviting, it's a very dangerous thing," he said.

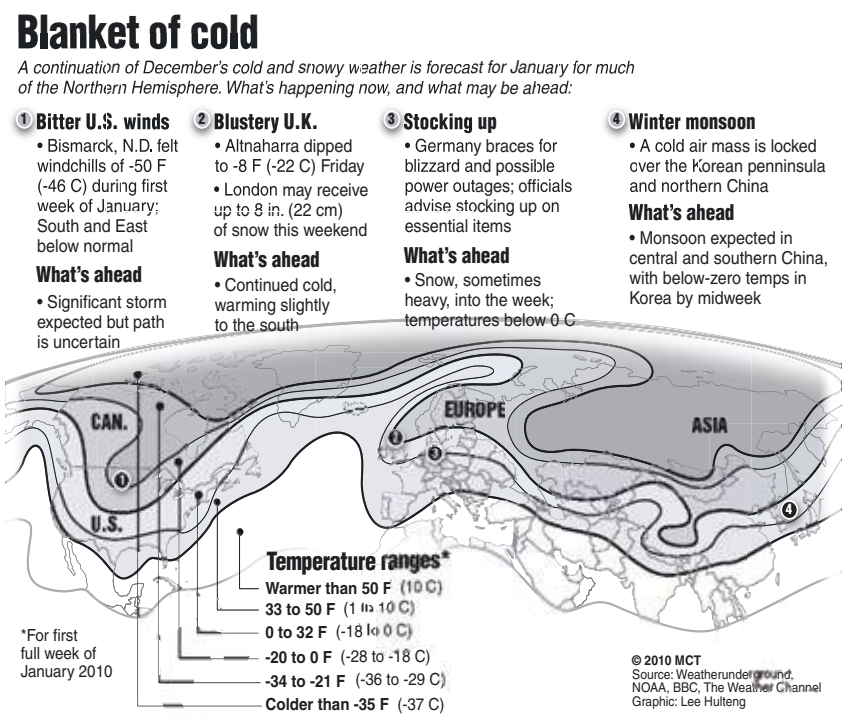
In other parts of the country, the weather was less unusual for winter, but still harsh.

In Vermont, state police said a snowmobiling accident on a partially frozen lake killed three people Saturday, including a 3-year-old girl.

Police say three snowmobiles carrying a total of six people went through ice on Lake Dunmore near Salisbury at around noon Saturday. Killed were: 50-year-old Kevin Flynn, of Whiting; 24-year-old Carrie Flynn, of Whiting; and 3-year-old Bryanna Popp.

An ice jam along the Mississippi River prompted the National Weather Service to issue a flood warning for southwest Illinois and northeast Missouri. The weather service said the river was near the 16-foot flood stage in Hannibal, Mo., on Saturday.

And the ferry that serves as the only connection between western Kentucky and eastern Missouri was shut down Saturday afternoon because of ice in the harbor and Mississippi River. Kentucky Department of Transportation spokesman Keith Todd said with temperatures expected to remain below freezing, operations for the Dorena-Hickman Ferry would be evaluated daily to decide when the crossing can resume.


Blanket of cold
A continuation of December's cold and snowy weather is forecast for January for much of the Northern Hemisphere. What's happening now, and what may be ahead:
1 Bitter U.S. winds
• Bismarck, N.D. felt windchills of -50 F (-46 C) during first week of January; South and East below normal
What's ahead
• Significant storm expected but path is uncertain
2 Blustery U.K.
• Altnaharra dipped to -8 F (-22 C) Friday
• London may receive up to 8 in. (22 cm) of snow this weekend
What's ahead
• Continued cold, warming slightly to the south
3 Stocking up
• Germany braces for blizzard and possible power outages; officials advise stocking up on essential items
What's ahead
• Snow, sometimes heavy, into the week; temperatures below 0 C
4 Winter monsoon
• A cold air mass is locked over the Korean penninsula and northern China
What's ahead
• Monsoon expected in central and southern China, with below-zero temps in Korea by midweek
CAN.
U.S.
EUROPE
ASIA
Temperature ranges*
Warmer than 50 F (10 C)
33 to 50 F (1 to 10 C)
0 to 32 F (-18 to 0 C)
-20 to 0 F (-28 to -18 C)
-34 to -21 F (-36 to -29 C)
Colder than -35 F (-37 C)
*For first full week of January 2010
© 2010 MCT
Source: Weatherunderground, NOAA, BBC, The Weather Channel
Graphic: Lee Hulteng

6.5 quake shakes buildings on California coast

FRESNO, Calif (AP)—A 6.5 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Northern California Saturday afternoon, shaking buildings south of the Oregon border and knocking out power in several coastal communities.

The powerful quake hit at about 4:27 p.m. PST about 22 miles from Ferndale, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Authorities in the nearby city of Eureka and other area communities said no major injuries have been reported. But several people received minor cuts and scrapes from broken glass at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka, fire spokesman Gary Bird said.

"There are some frayed nerves, but I think we've come through this pretty well for the magnitude of earthquake we've had," he said.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. spokesman J.D. Guidi said power outages were widespread across most of Humboldt County, affecting about 25,000 customers.

Several traffic lights fell and numerous residents reported water, gas and sewer leaks, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services spokeswoman Jo Wattle said.

"People have chimneys down, and we're hearing about minor property damage and lots of glassware broken," Wattle said. "People are really shaken up. It was shaking pretty good, then it had a big jolt to it at the end." According to the USGS, the quake hit at a depth of nearly 10 miles. Eight aftershocks followed in the three hours after the quake, the biggest registering at 6:21 p.m. PST at a magnitude of 4.5.

Warnings about accused Del. pediatrician surface

DOVER, Del. (AP)—Dating back almost a decade, there were complaints and investigations involving Dr. Earl Bradley, a well-known Delaware pediatrician who authorities say may have molested more than 100 children.

There were jokes among colleagues, who thought Bradley had an unusual practice with his carnival-like office filled with toys and a merry-go-round. Even Bradley's own sister, who worked for him, heard parents' concerns.

Despite the warnings, Delaware's medical board only recently suspended Bradley's license—after he was arrested.

"The system failed. What I don't know, and what we must find out, is where and how," said Gov. Jack Markell, who plans to order an independent review of the state's handling of the case.

Outraged parents have complained that children could have been spared had officials acted sooner.

"If he was under investigation for over a year, why didn't someone speak up?" a tearful mother said at a community forum last month. "All of this could have been avoided."

Bradley, 56, is being held in lieu of $2.9 million bond after being charged with more than 30 felonies, including rape. After years of suspicions, his arrest came when a 2-year-old girl told her mother that Bradley hurt her last month when he took her to a basement room after an exam.

Authorities have said Bradley videotaped some of the attacks, some of which occurred in exam rooms with Disney themes.

Bradley faces a preliminary hearing on Thursday. His attorney, Eugene Maurer, did not immediately return telephone messages left at his home and law office Saturday.

Is Washington's orca baby boom a fluke?

AP

In this Jan. 3, 2010 photo released by Orcanetwork.org, J47, a baby orca whale, swims alongside J35, it's mother, near Vashon Island, Wash. in Puget Sound.

SEATTLE (AP)—A little over a year after researchers feared a drop in the Northwest's endangered killer whale population meant disaster, the number of orcas has bounced back with six new babies and no whales lost.

Though scientific evidence is skimpy, some whale experts say the good news might be the result of enough salmon for the majestic black-and-white mammals to eat. Others say so little is known about orcas that the baby boom could be due to any number of factors—or simply a statistical fluke.

Whatever the reason, they're overjoyed about the new arrivals.

"We're all very happy to see so many births," said Susan Berta of the Whidbey Island-based Orca Network.

"We're all hoping that they find lots of fish to keep them healthy and keep the mothers in good condition so they can feed the calves," she said.

The Center for Whale Research says that in 2008, eight orcas in the three pods, J, K and L, that make up the southern resident population in Washington and southwest British Columbia went missing and were presumed dead, including two females of reproductive age and the 98-year-old matriarch of K Pod. With just one surviving birth that year, the total in the three pods as of December 2008 dropped to 82.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 die when snowmobiles go through ice on Vt. lake

SALISBURY, Vt. (AP)—Three snowmobiles crossing a frozen Vermont lake plunged through the ice Saturday, killing a man, his 24-year-old daughter and 3-year-old granddaughter, police said. The snowmobiles were carrying six people on Lake Dunmore when the accident occurred about 100 yards from shore at about noon Saturday. Five people went into the water and were later pulled out by rescue crews. A 4-year-old was pushed to safety before the snowmobile he was riding went through the ice. Kevin Flynn, 50, Carrie Flynn, 24, both of Whiting, and 3-year-old Bryanna Popp, of Brandon, were pronounced dead at Porter Hospital in nearby Middlebury. Kevin Flynn's wife, 47-year-old Terry Flynn, and Bryanna's brother, 6-year-old Jeremiah Popp, survived, as did the 4-year-old, whose name wasn't immediately released. Carrie Flynn was the aunt of at least two of the children.

NYC man charged with getting al-Qaida training

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City man under investigation for his links to a terror suspect pleaded not guilty Saturday to charges that he flew to Pakistan to get military training from al-Qaida. Adis Medunjanin entered the plea during a swift arraignment at a federal court in Brooklyn. He faces counts of receiving military training from a foreign terrorist organization and conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country. The 25-year-old was one of two Queens men arrested early Friday in connection with the investigation of Najibullah Zazi, a Colorado airport driver who pleaded not guilty last year to supporting terrorism. The indictment made public by prosecutors on Saturday provided scant details on the accusations against Medunjanin, who was born in Bosnia but is a U.S. citizen.

Friends: Suspect meant no harm at Newark airport

PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP)—Friends described the man charged with breaching security at Newark Liberty International Airport as a romantic who just wanted to see his girlfriend off properly. Speaking outside Haisong Jiang's home near the Rutgers University campus in Piscataway on Saturday, Ning Huang said he's known the 28-year-old for several years. Huang said Jiang is "a very good person" who didn't realize the ramifications of his actions on Sunday. Andy Riu, who also described himself as a friend of Jiang, called him "very romantic." Both men said Jiang had been dating the woman for about a year and that he had flown to California several times to visit her. The woman, a recent Rutgers graduate who lives in Los Angeles, was in New Jersey for a holiday visit.

Police say Anchorage officer shot several times

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An Anchorage police officer was ambushed without provocation by unknown gunmen early Saturday as he sat in his patrol car working on an apparently unrelated assault case, police said, and city officials vowed to catch those responsible. The officer, who is expected to recover, was parked in his marked cruiser in a residential neighborhood near downtown after taking a domestic violence report on an incident that had occurred in the past. Anchorage patrol officers generally work alone. Several men pulled up next to the driver's side in a dark-colored sedan shortly before 2 a.m. and the front passenger fired some rounds. The officer was struck possibly five times in both arms and his torso, said Lt. Dave Koch.

Asia

Video links Pakistan Taliban to CIA bombing

KABUL (AP)—In a video broadcast after his death, the Jordanian suicide bomber who killed seven CIA employees sits cross-legged on the floor next to the new chief of the Pakistani Taliban, confirming the group was behind the brazen attack in eastern Afghanistan.

Yet multiple insurgent groups have claimed responsibility for the bombing, and a senior Pakistani militant told The Associated Press that al-Qaida and Afghan Taliban fighters were also involved in one of the worst attacks in the U.S. intelligence agency's history.

The suicide attack inside the CIA base—which the bomber said was meant to avenge the death of the former Pakistani Taliban leader in a CIA missile strike—could prompt the U.S. to further pressure the government of Pakistan to crack down on militants who operate on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistani border. U.S. missile strikes against targets on the Pakistan side already are on the rise.

AP

In this image taken from undated video made available from Taliban sources on Saturday Jan. 9, 2010, purportedly showing Humam Khalil Abu Mulal al-Balawi, right, reading a statement to camera vowing revenge for the death of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud, while sitting next to the new leader of the Pakistani Taliban, Hakimullah Mehsud.

Seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed Dec. 30 when the suicide bomber detonated his cache of explosives at Camp Chapman, a tightly secured CIA base in Khost province, a dangerous region southeast of the Afghan capital Kabul.

The CIA had cultivated the bomber—a Jordanian doctor identified as Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-Balawi—in hopes of obtaining information about al-Qaida's second in command, Ayman al-Zawahri.

Defending his agents, CIA Director Leon Panetta said the bomber was about to be searched before the blast occurred.

Afghan president presents second Cabinet list

KABUL (AP)—A week after parliament rejected 70 percent of his Cabinet choices, the Afghan president on Saturday submitted a new slate of 16 nominees that included three women, political allies and his longtime national security adviser for the key foreign minister post.

Lawmakers indicated President Hamid Karzai faced another uphill battle in getting his second lineup approved. Critics said some nominees lacked the necessary credentials, had been picked as paybacks to supporters who helped get the president get re-elected, or were too closely aligned with warlords.

"Unfortunately this list is worse than the previous list," said Mohammed Nahim Farahi, a member of parliament from western Afghanistan. "Unfortunately again, Karzai made another deal with his supporters. If the lawmakers in the parliament are to fulfill their commitments according to the constitution, they should not vote for such unknown people who don't have any experience in these positions."

Fifth church attacked in Malaysia in Allah feud

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Another church was hit by a firebomb early Sunday, the fifth assault in three days of unrest following a court decision that allows Christians and other non-Muslims to use "Allah" to refer to God.

Hundreds of worshippers whose parish church was partly gutted in the firebomb attack last week gathered at a makeshift prayer hall for their Sunday service and called for national unity and an end to violence.

On Sunday, a Molotov cocktail was hurled at the All Saints Church in Taiping town in central Perak state early in the morning before it had opened, said state police chief Zulkifli Abdullah. He told The Associated Press that the building was not damaged but police found burn marks on the floor.

Four churches were hit by gasoline bombs on Friday and Saturday. All except the Metro Tabernacle, who parishioners moved their services, suffered little damage, and no one was hurt. The other three held normal services Sunday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sri Lankan ex-rebels reunited with family members

MANIK FARM, Sri Lanka (AP)—More than 700 former Tamil Tiger rebels were reunited with family members Saturday after months in rehabilitation camps since the country's decades-long civil war ended last year. President Mahinda Rajapaksa joined the hands of 15 men, women and children with relatives at a special ceremony at the Manik Farm camp in northern Sri Lanka where more than 100,000 war refugees are housed. Government forces routed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas in May last year, ending the country's more than a quarter century long civil war in which an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 people died.

Suspected US missile strike kills 2 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Two intelligence officials say a suspected U.S. missile strike has killed two people in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region. The Saturday strike was the sixth in about a week in the area. Two missiles fired by a suspected unmanned drone hit a house in Data Khel, an area that is a stronghold of the Haqqani militant network. The intelligence officials say three people have also been wounded. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information. The Haqqani network is suspected of involvement in a Dec. 30 attack on a CIA base in eastern Afghanistan that killed seven Americans.

Report: 15 injured in latest Hong Kong acid attack

HONG KONG (AP)—News reports say an attacker has dropped a bottle of acid into a crowd in Hong Kong and injured at least 15 people. China's official Xinhua news agency says some of the victims burned in the Saturday acid attack included tourists. It says a bottle of acid was dropped from above on the crowd in the busy Kowloon area of the city at about 9:30 p.m. (1330 GMT). Xinhua quotes Hong Kong Cable TV as saying the injured have been rushed to the hospital and police have cordoned off the area. A series of acid attacks have hit Hong Kong since December 2008 injuring more than 100 people.

World

Migrants bused from riot-struck Italian town

ROME (AP)—Bloody clashes between African migrants and residents in one of Italy's poorest regions over the last few days brought home a national dilemma Saturday: Many Italians don't want to pick crops in the south or toil in the north's factories, but resent the desperate foreigners who will work for a pittance.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi last year dismissed any notion of a "multiethnic Italy." His conservative coalition, which includes the anti-immigrant Northern League party, has repeatedly cracked down on illegal immigration, sometimes drawing the ire of human rights advocates, U.N. officials and the Vatican.

With opinion surveys showing that many Italians blame immigrants for crime, tensions persist between citizens and foreigners—and sometimes erupt into violence, as they did these past days in Rosarno, a town in Calabria, an underdeveloped southern agricultural region with chronic unemployment.

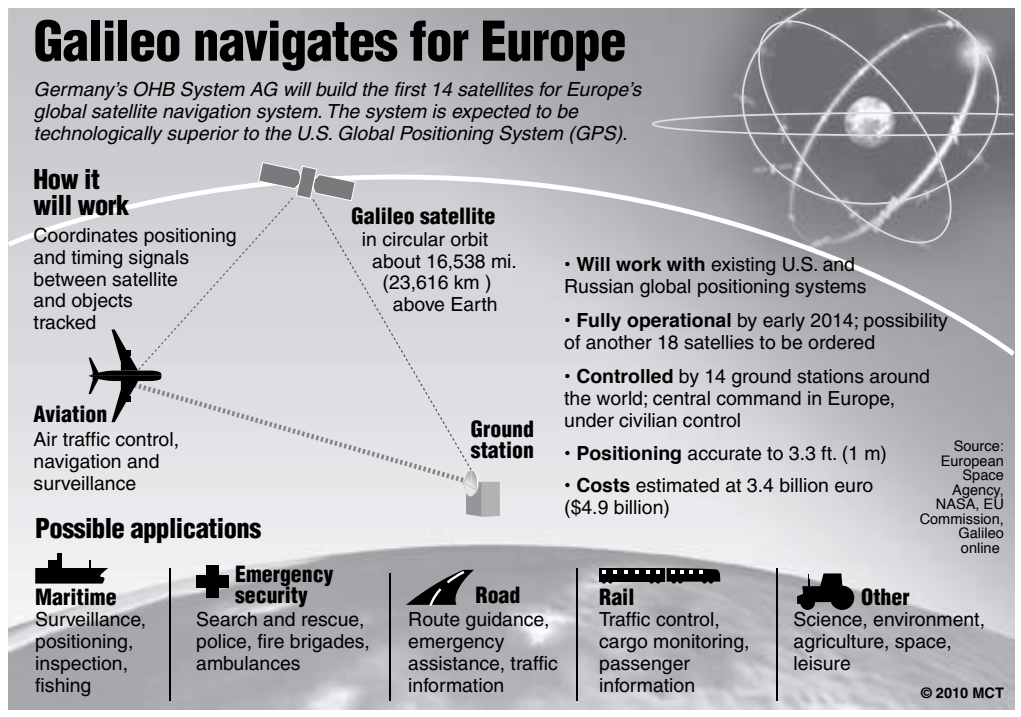
At least 38 people were wounded in the violence, which began Thursday night when two migrants were shot with a pellet gun in an attack the migrants blamed on racism. Violence continued Friday with clashes involving Africans, Rosarno residents and police. Among the more seriously wounded were three migrants beaten with metal rods.

Yemen's conflicts flare amid al-Qaida fight

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—While ramping up the fight against al-Qaida with U.S. help, the Yemeni government has also escalated its own internal conflicts in the north and south that threaten to throw the fractured country into greater chaos and even nourish the terror group's growth. Yemeni troops backed with tanks and artillery launched new assaults against Shiite rebels, the military said Saturday, the latest offensive in an increasingly bloody war that has been raging for years on the capital's northern doorstep.

Also, lethal clashes erupted this week between protesters and security forces struggling to put an end to a secessionist movement in the once-independent south, where bitterness toward San'a is swelling.

Observers question if the impoverished nation's military can wage a determined campaign against al-Qaida under the strain of the multiple conflicts, and there are fears the terror group is seeking to link up with insurgents for new recruits, particularly in the south.


Galileo navigates for Europe
Germany's OHB System AG will build the first 14 satellites for Europe's global satellite navigation system. The system is expected to be technologically superior to the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS).
How it will work
Coordinates positioning and timing signals between satellite and objects tracked
Galileo satellite
in circular orbit about 16,538 mi. (23,616 km) above Earth
Aviation
Air traffic control, navigation and surveillance
Ground station
• Will work with existing U.S. and Russian global positioning systems
• Fully operational by early 2014; possibility of another 18 satellies to be ordered
• Controlled by 14 ground stations around the world; central command in Europe, under civilian control
• Positioning accurate to 3.3 ft. (1 m)
• Costs estimated at 3.4 billion euro ($4.9 billion)
Source: European Space Agency, NASA, EU Commission, Galileo online
Possible applications
Maritime
Surveillance, positioning, inspection, fishing
Emergency security
Search and rescue, police, fire brigades, ambulances
Road
Route guidance, emergency assistance, traffic information
Rail
Traffic control, cargo monitoring, passenger information
Other
Science, environment, agriculture, space, leisure
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WORLD BRIEFS

2 men decapitated, 2 women killed on Mexico border

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Police found two severed heads and the bullet-ridden bodies of two women and a disabled man in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez, the latest chapter in Mexico's increasingly gory drug war. The killing of women or the disabled has been rare in a conflict that has cost more than 15,000 lives in the past three years. Prosecutors in northern Chihuahua state, where Ciudad Juarez is located, said the first man's body was found on a street late Friday with its hands and head cut off. Between the hands was a message with characteristics similar to those usually left by organized crime gangs. Another man's body, with its head cut off and eyes gouged out, was found elsewhere.

Disgraced wife of N. Ireland leader to step down

LONDON (AP)—The wife of Northern Ireland's leader will step down as a lawmaker within days, British media reported Saturday, as pressure mounted on Peter Robinson's shaky coalition government over her admissions of an affair with a far-younger man. The BBC and Britain's Press Association cited unidentified sources within the Robinson's Democratic Unionist Party as saying that his wife Iris, 60, would relinquish her dual position as parliamentarian in London and representative to Northern Ireland's regional assembly in Belfast within days. The reported move follows the revelation that she had an adulterous relationship with a man nearly 40 years her junior—and allegations that she solicited tens of thousands of pounds (dollars) from businessmen to help the teenager launch a cafe. Iris Robinson was 58 at the time, and the man, Kirk McCambley, was 19.

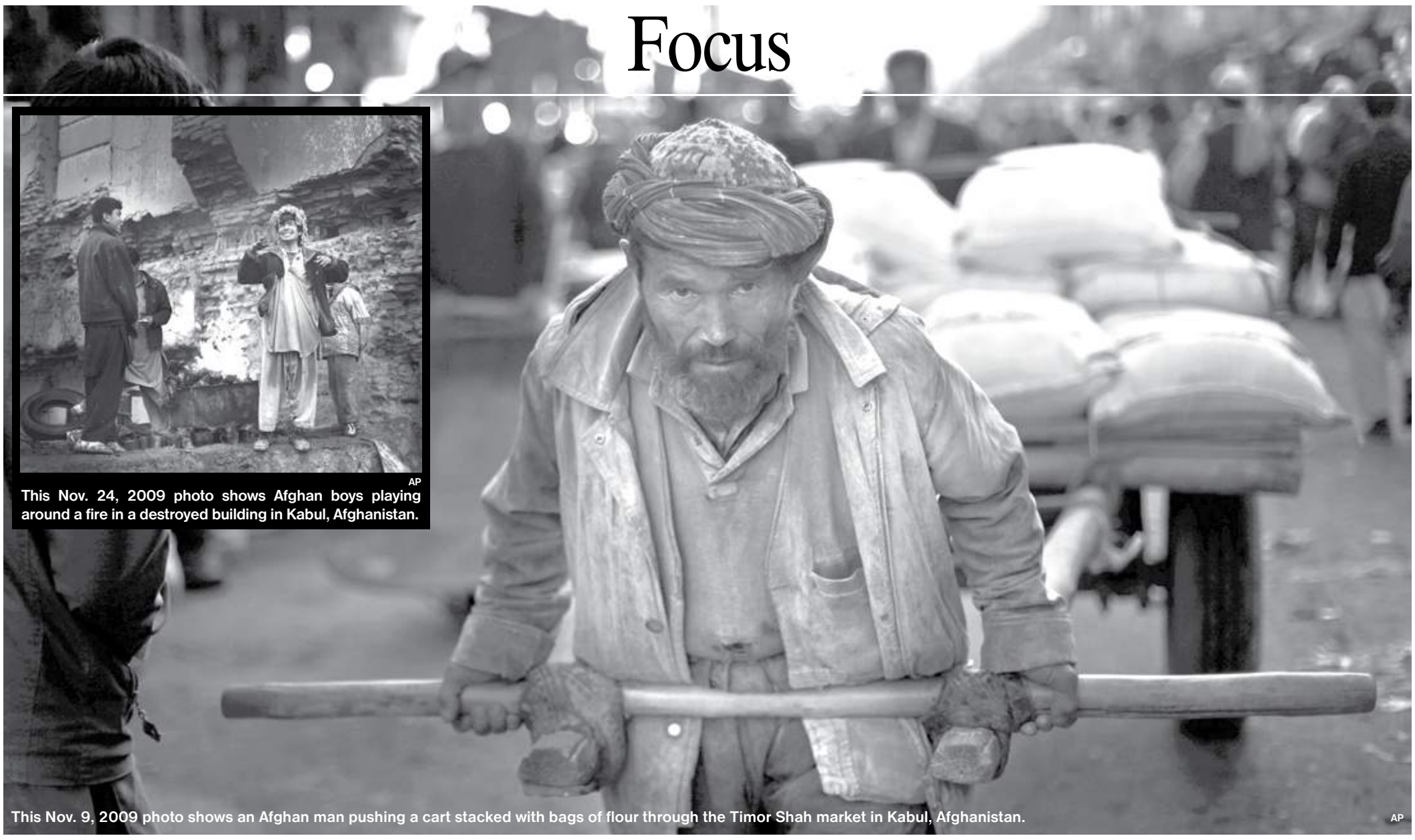
Pope visits prelate hurt in Basilica incident

ROME (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI paid a call Saturday on a hospitalized cardinal who broke a hip when a mentally disturbed woman knocked the pontiff down in St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve. Benedict embraced 87-year-old French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, who wore a gray dressing gown during the early evening visit by the pontiff at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic. The Vatican said the pope and Etchegaray chatted cordially in French during the 30-minute visit, which hadn't been announced in advance. "The pope expressed his interest and spiritual closeness" to Etchegaray, whose recovery was going well following surgery shortly after the injury, the Vatican said.

Focus

AP

This Nov. 24, 2009 photo shows Afghan boys playing around a fire in a destroyed building in Kabul, Afghanistan.



This Nov. 9, 2009 photo shows an Afghan man pushing a cart stacked with bags of flour through the Timor Shah market in Kabul, Afghanistan. AP

Afghans losing hope after 8 years of war

By TODD PITMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KABUL (AP)—The man on the motorcycle was going the wrong way down a one-way street, gesturing indignantly for the phalanx of traffic-clogged cars in front of him to move.

"Brother, why are you angry with us?" said a passenger leaning out of one of the vehicles blocking his path. "It's you who are going the wrong way!"

"I'm not angry at you, I'm angry at Afghanistan," the man cried back, waving his arm dismissively as he negotiated his bike onto a crowded sidewalk and drove off in a trail of exhaust fumes. "These are sad days."

In Kabul, even a traffic jam can provoke a comment on this Islamic nation's dismal state, which most people here believe is at its bleakest since the U.S. invaded to topple the Taliban in 2001. It's a striking sentiment when you consider it comes after eight years of international intervention, $60 billion in foreign aid and the lives of thousands of foreign troops and Afghan civilians.

The Obama administration is hoping to reverse that trend by pouring 30,000 more American troops into the conflict over the next few months. But "the more soldiers they send here, the worse it gets," said 19-year-old carpet seller Hamid Hashimi.

In the year after the Taliban fell, international forces numbered a modest 16,000. Today that number is already well over 100,000, and the insurgency has mushroomed along with it.

The war—once mostly limited to Pakistan border—has touched nearly ever corner of the country. It has also penetrated the frontier-like capital, where car bombings or other spectacular attacks like the October storming of a guest house filled with U.N. staff make news every couple of weeks.

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

When the Taliban were overthrown in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, aid groups, analysts and Afghans themselves all believed the nation was finally emerging from a quarter century of war.

In retrospect, there wasn't much of a break.

"In those days people had hope, but unfortunately everything has turned upside down since then," said Hanif Hangam, who stars in an Afghan comedy TV show called Alarm Bell. "People expected things to go forward, but we've just been sliding back."

The irony is that so much has changed in Kabul.

A vast sea of blown-out buildings in the west of the city has been completely rebuilt. Multistory shopping malls encased in glass symbolize a newfound prosperity, towering above streets lined with travel agencies, internet cafes, and even Afghan Fried Chicken, a local fast-food chain.

At night, rainbow-colored flashing palm trees climb the walls of splashy new wedding halls. Newly connected electricity lines light up mountainsides ringing the capital, whose population has tripled in the last eight years to 4.5 million as millions of refugees returned.

Residents are also embracing freedoms anew: a majority of women have shed the once-ubiquitous blue burqas mandated by the Taliban in favor of flashy headscarves that shine in the night. And from one state TV channel in 2001, there are now more than 20 private stations with 3-D graphics and talk shows that rival any abroad.

"People can finally can talk openly about what's gone wrong," Hangam said of the media boom. "They can criticize the government and warlords, point out corruption. But unfortunately, nobody is listening. We never see anything change."

> *In those days people had hope, but unfortunately everything has turned upside down since then. People expected things to go forward, but we've just been sliding back.*

Indeed, the news today is the same as it was eight years previous, there is just more of it: Car bombs and rockets rock Kabul. Civilians die accidentally in U.S. air strikes. Afghan security forces in dire need of training. The opium trade is booming.

And just like 2001, President Hamid Karzai is derided as the "mayor of Kabul" by critics who say his authority doesn't extend much further than the city limits.

"It's a disaster," said Ramazan Bashardost, a lawmaker who came in a distant third in the country's botched August election, which was marred by fraud so widespread a third of Karzai's ballots were thrown out. "The situation is getting worse every day for ordinary Afghans."

According to Bashardost, about 80 percent of the country is without electricity and unemployment is 60 percent. Many families can only afford to eat once a day and corruption is so rampant, "it's practically legal," he said.

"People ask, 'What has democracy brought?'" he said. Besides helping keep warlords accused of war crimes in power, Bashardost added, "the answer is: insecurity."

Guerrilla attacks have made even provinces surrounding the capital unsafe. Hashimi said his family owns land in Wardak province, which neighbors the city, but he hasn't been home in years because the roads are too dangerous.

Alongside billboards advertising modern utilities like BlackBerry smartphones are others hawking armored transport. The local "Scene" magazine includes ads for shops selling bullet-proof vests, and most of the people pictured inside its "Party Scene" section are foreign correspondents who came to cover the war.

Downtown, protective blast walls have grown larger outside U.S. and U.N. facilities, and some streets have been closed to public traffic. Helmeted soldiers peek out of sandbagged guard posts at government ministries. Residents like Hashimi cringe whenever they walk past—fearful the offices will be targeted by bombers.

Outside Thai and Indian restaurants in one posh neighborhood, bodyguards in black suits stand in the middle of streets like gangsters, holding small, uzi-like automatic weapons as officials climb into black SUVs with tinted windows. And when security prevents dining out, the Wakhan cafe has signs that say: "Locked Down! No problems"—they deliver.

The U.S. Congressional Research Service said in a recent report that foreign assistance pledged to Afghanistan since 2001 has topped $58 billion, about $38 billion of it from the U.S. alone.

But "what happened to all this money?" said Bashardost. "Has garbage been cleaned up? Have all the streets been paved?"

Many think some of those funds have been diverted to places like the city's Shirpoor neighborhood, where the powerful clique Washington brought to power eight years ago bulldozed dozens of crumbling mud-brick homes occupied by squatters and divvied the land among cronies.

Residents deride the gaudy mirrored mansions as "poppy palaces" because they are believed to have also been constructed in part with money from the drug trade. Few believe their owners could have built them with paltry official salaries; they cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and rent for $20,000 per month.

"We've built a lot of buildings," lawmaker Shukria Barakzai said with a sigh at a recent government ceremony commemorating the deaths of thousands of Afghan police and soldiers. "But we've lost a lot of hope."

Health & Fitness

How to stick to your new year's resolution

By VICKY HALLETT
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

January is the best and worst of times for anyone in the fitness industry. Aerobics classes suddenly have waiting lists, yoga mats seem to peek out of every other person's bag and not a single dumbbell feels ignored. But every year, the river of sweat turns to a trickle by March. "You just have that one month of craziness," says Amy Richardson, the Washington area YMCA's director of wellness programs and group exercise.

Here are tips to help you stay on track:

BE SPECIFIC

The problem, as we all know, is that resolutions can seem brilliant until you realize you haven't really thought them out. The classic example is, "I'm going to lose weight." Great. But how are you going to do it? Richardson wants to know: "Are you going to work out more? Change your routine? Try to build more muscle?" You're more likely to slim down if you have a plan of attack.

BE REALISTIC

Another common pitfall is setting the bar too high. Just because you've never run a mile doesn't mean you won't one day complete a marathon, but picking that as your first finish line can backfire.

"Start by jogging 10 minutes," advises Katie Rubio, fitness director at a Sport & Health Club in D.C. "You're going to be more successful if you break it down."

Taking it easy at the beginning doesn't make you a slacker. It makes you more likely to go the distance, adds Richardson. "You don't need to stay for a whole spinning class. Leave after 20 minutes and work your way up. Instructors won't be offended; they want you to come back," she says.

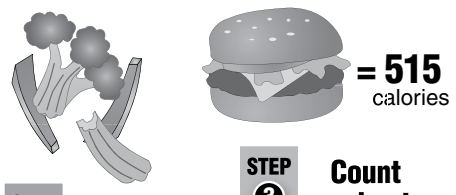
FIND MOTIVATION

To stay on track, Rubio likes to write down her resolution (this year, that's to compete in a sprint triathlon) and look at it every day as a reminder. And both recommend finding someone—a family member, friend, co-worker, trainer—to be on your team and keep you accountable.

Health Matters

Weighty resolution

Many fail to lose weight by setting overly optimistic goals. Instead, start slowly and have a plan:



Keeping it off
Losing just 5 to 10 percent of excess body weight can improve your health

STEP 1 Food journal
Write down what you eat each day
- Helps cut down on mindless eating
- May help you identify trigger foods; if you have to keep track of what you eat, you may think twice before eating that candy bar

STEP 2 Snacks? Yes!
Eat smaller meals throughout the day
- You need food every two to three hours
- Low-fat yogurt and fruit, soy cheese, veggies with low-fat dip and whole-grain crackers help curb appetite and keep you from overeating at mealtime

STEP 3 Count and cut
Determine your daily calorie intake
- To lose pounds, you need to cut calories
- To drop about one-half pound each week, subtract 250 calories per day
- Drop about one pound each week by subtracting 500 calories per day*

*Should not drop below 1,200 calories a day for women and 1,400 calories for men

STEP 4 Walk it off
Exercise
- Increases metabolism; higher metabolism lets you burn calories, even while resting
- Walk, bike or swim 20-30 minutes a day, three to four times per week
- Use a pedometer to keep track of the number of steps you take daily; try adding 1,000 steps daily until you reach 10,000

© 2010 MCT
Source: University of Maryland Medical Center Graphic: Lee Hulteng

Exercising restraint; kids and medicine

By CHARITY BROWN
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

Gyms and fitness centers are getting crowded. For millions of Americans, weight loss is a mainstay of New Year's resolutions lists — normally in the top three, beating out other favorites such as better money management.

But don't let your enthusiasm to start the New Year right cloud good judgment. If you've been inactive for an extended period of time, take it slow. The American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS) says that a rapid increase of activity can induce a number of ankle and foot problems such as stress fractures, plantar fasciitis or ruptured tendons.

To avoid these injuries, the AOFAS offers a few preventive tips:

- Know your limits. Listen to your body.
- Use proper footwear for specific types of exercise.
- To warm up, walk, stretch and focus on strengthening the muscles in the calf.
- Follow a sensible exercise program. Start out slowly.
- Increase running or walking distance and speed gradually, in increments no greater than 10 percent per week.
- Take the time to cool down properly.

Check out www.aofas.org for more information.

■■■

Got a sick kid? Parents magazine makes getting your child to take their medicine an easy task. When there's less drama about getting them to swallow, you can focus on what's most important: the correct dose at the correct time.

- Put on a happy face. Kids can pick up on negative tone and body language. So, act like "medicine time" is an enjoyable experience but be honest. Don't lie to them and say the medicine will taste good if it doesn't. If they're able to understand (age 3 or older), explain that the medicine will make them feel better.
- Bypass taste buds or disguise the taste. Kids will often spit out medicine that doesn't taste good. Even if your child is old enough to drink from a cup, use a syringe or dropper (be sure the dosage is correct). Or, for just a few extra dollars, have your pharmacist add a flavor (such as banana or watermelon) to prescription drugs.
- Get help from your doctor. Kids sometimes have a harder time with liquid medication. Ask the doctor if chewables are an option.

CDC: Swine flu now widespread only in 1 state

ATLANTA (AP)—Swine flu infections continue to drop and only one state—Alabama—was reporting widespread cases last week.

Four states had widespread cases the previous week. The number has been dropping since late October, when nearly all states had widespread flu reports.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also reported Friday that there are no signs of seasonal flu right now, only the swine variety. But CDC officials noted there is still more flu around than normally seen at this time of year, and illnesses could increase as kids return to school after the holiday break.

Restaurant food has more calories than advertised

By MICHAEL HILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Dieters can't believe everything they read: The food at many popular chain restaurants and in the freezer section of the supermarket may contain a lot more calories than advertised.

A study of 10 chain restaurants, including Wendy's and Ruby Tuesday, found that the number of calories in 29 meals or other menu items was an average of 18 percent higher than listed.

And frozen supermarket meals from Lean Cuisine, Weight Watchers, Healthy Choice and South Beach Living had 8 percent more calories than the labels said, according to the study, published in this month's Journal of the American Dietetic Association.

The researchers and other experts aren't accusing restaurants and food companies of trying to deceive customers. They said most of the discrepancies can be explained by variations in ingredients, portion sizes and testing methods. For example, the teenager behind the counter might have put too much mayonnaise on one sandwich.

Still, "if every time you eat out, you get a couple of hundred calories or more than you think, that can add up really easily," said lead researcher Susan Roberts, a professor of nutrition at Tufts University. "There's a big drumbeat for people putting calories on menus, but that's only useful if the calories are right."

Marion Nestle, a professor of nutrition at New York University who was not involved in the study, said she was not surprised by the findings. People might think nutrition labels are scientifically precise, but they are mostly ballpark figures, she said.

"It would never occur to me that the calories posted on menu boards are anything close to reality," Nestle said.

The study said most of the packaged food tested fell within the 20 percent margin of error allowed by the Food and Drug Administration.

AP
This July 18, 2008 file photo shows a McDonalds drive-thru menu in New York printed with calorie counts for each food item.

Some items, like Domino's large thin-crust cheese pizza, came in low. It had one-third fewer than the reported 180 calories per serving.

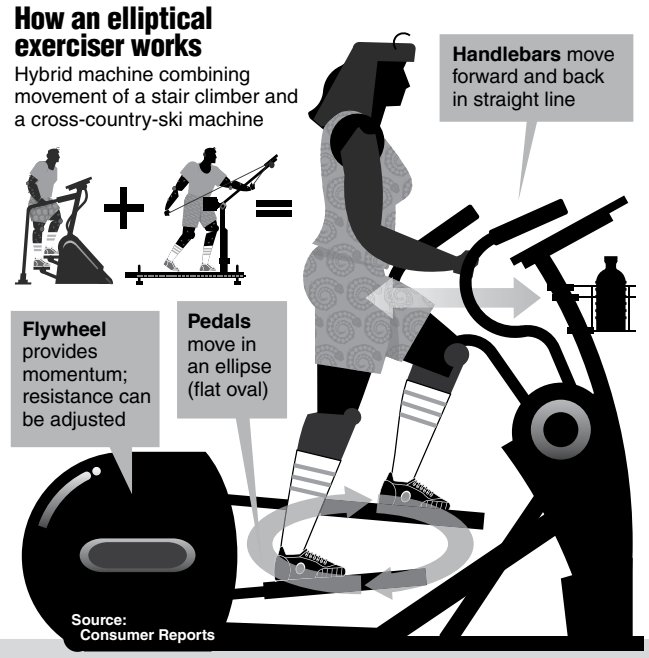
Wendy's Ultimate Chicken Grill was found to have 9 percent more calories than the reported 320. P.F. Chang's large Sichuan-style asparagus had more than double the 200 calories it was supposed to have. Ruby Tuesday's baked potato with butter and sour cream came in on target, but researchers measured 3 percent more calories in McDonald's McChicken sandwich, which is said to have 360 calories.

Personal Trainer

Going elliptical

Elliptical exercisers like treadmills are popular, with many people trying them first at health clubs or gyms.

How an elliptical exerciser works
Hybrid machine combining movement of a stair climber and a cross-country-ski machine


Handlebars move forward and back in straight line
Flywheel provides momentum; resistance can be adjusted
Pedals move in an ellipse (flat oval)
Source: Consumer Reports

- *Expensive health club machines have magnetic resistance, smoother action; durable design for heavy use*
- *Home machines have friction belt on flywheel, which works well but is not as durable*

Some advantages
- Puts less strain on joints than a treadmill; useful for people with knee problems
- Exercises the weight-bearing bones of legs and back, helping protect against osteoporosis; stationary bikes and rowing machines do not
- Handlebars exercise arms, shoulders, abdominal muscles
- Easy to learn and use

© 2010 MCT Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

Source: DA to seek indictment of Jackson doctor

AP

In this Monday, Nov. 23, 2009 picture, Dr. Conrad Murray arrives at his clinic in Houston.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly seven months after Michael Jackson's death stunned the world, the official investigation of his death is edging toward conclusion with prosecutors prepared to seek an indictment of Jackson's doctor on a charge of involuntary manslaughter, The Associated Press has learned.

The fate of Dr. Conrad Murray has been the subject of speculation since he found Jackson unconscious in his home in Los Angeles last June. Jackson was preparing for a strenuous concert comeback in London, and Murray, a cardiologist, had been hired as his personal physician for the tour.

A law enforcement source who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation remains open said Friday that Murray would be prosecuted on a theory of gross negligence alleging that his treatment of Jackson was an extreme departure from the standard of care normally followed by physicians.

Court documents filed last summer concerning a search warrant said police were seeking evidence of manslaughter.

The coroner has ruled Jackson's death at age 50 was a homicide caused by acute intoxication by the powerful anesthetic propofol, with other sedatives a contributing factor.

Propofol depresses breathing and heart rate while lowering blood pressure, so it's supposed to be administered by an anesthesia professional in a medical setting.

The singer died after Murray administered propofol and two other sedatives to get the chronic insomniac to sleep, court documents state. Murray told police he left the room to use the bathroom, and phone records show he also made calls for 47 minutes around the time Jackson encountered problems.

When Murray realized Jackson was unresponsive, he began frantic efforts to revive him, but Jackson never regained consciousness.

The coroner found the propofol was administered to Jackson without any medical need and that recommended resuscitation equipment was missing.

As the police investigation neared an end, criminal attorney J. Michael Flanagan said Friday he had been hired to join Houston attorney Edward Chernoff in representing Murray.

In addition, Chernoff released a statement saying he had not received notice that a grand jury was hearing the case or inviting Murray to testify.

Chernoff spokeswoman Miranda Sevcik said earlier that Murray neither prescribed nor administered anything that should have killed Jackson.

Flanagan previously worked in the media spotlight representing Britney Spears in a hit-and-run case. He said he tried a propofol case several years ago, representing a nurse who was acquitted after it was shown she played no role in administering propofol to a patient who died.

Flanagan said there was a difference between a nurse's role and "a very sophisticated doctor making a medical judgment."

Brittany Murphy's mom's frantic 911 call released

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 911 call released Friday reveals the frantic efforts by Brittany Murphy's mother and husband to save the actress' life on the morning she died.

Murphy's mother, Sharon, is heard crying and telling a fire dispatcher that the actress wasn't breathing.

Murphy

The dispatcher then gives directions to Sharon Murphy on how to try to revive Murphy. She relays the information to Murphy's husband, Simon Monjack, who had already started CPR and is heard in the background trying to revive the actress.

"My daughter's passed out," Sharon Murphy tells the dispatcher, adding that the actress had been ill, had vomited and was feeling dizzy. She states that her daughter wasn't taking any medication.

She also said on the eight-minute call that no one saw how Murphy collapsed. Sharon Murphy is heard crying and wailing at times on the call.

"Brittany please come back!" she is heard screaming.

Brittany Murphy, 32, was found in the bathroom of her Hollywood Hills home on Dec. 20 and was later pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Coroner's officials are awaiting the results of toxicology tests to determine how she died. They have said the family reported Murphy was ill with flulike symptoms in the days before her death.

Murphy's family laid her to rest at a funeral service on Dec. 24 at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills.

Murphy moved with her mother, Sharon, to Los Angeles when she was a teenager to pursue an acting career. She started out in sitcoms and commercials in the early 1990s before winning starring roles in several films.

Her breakthrough role came in 1995, as a dowdy high school student (and best friend of star Alicia Silverstone's character) in "Clueless."

Murphy worked steadily after that. She shared the screen with Winona Ryder and Angelina Jolie in 1999's "Girl, Interrupted." She played Eminem's love interest in "8 Mile" and Ashton Kutcher's wife in "Just Married." She starred as a suspicious girlfriend in 2004's "Little Black Book" and a barmaid with an abusive ex-boyfriend in 2005's "Sin City." She also voiced Gloria the penguin in the 2006 animated film "Happy Feet."

Murphy was juggling multiple movie projects in the months before her unexpected death, wrapping two indie thrillers over the summer and preparing to shoot a romantic comedy next month.

CBS chief: Prime-time Leno great for us

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The failed Jay Leno experiment was great for business—at CBS.

CBS entertainment president Nina Tassler said Saturday her network took in more advertising revenue for its 10 p.m. dramas because NBC decided to put Leno's comedy show on at that hour five nights a week. NBC is considering moving Leno back to late-night TV because its affiliates are upset that the show's low prime-time ratings are hurting late local news programs.

"10 o'clock is a great business for us," Tassler said. "The unfortunate thing is that our creative community was to some degree somewhat bruised by this ... A lot of people were put out of work. A lot of people really saw this as having a negative effect on our business."

AP

In this March 19, 2009 file photo, host Jay Leno is shown on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" in Burbank, Calif.

Hollywood actors, writers and producers had been upset about Leno's show from the beginning, seeing it as taking away from prime-time hours usually filled by scripted shows.

Tassler said that NBC keeps seeming to come up with new prime-time strategies to deal with its ratings troubles when "there's no substitute for just developing and producing and launching great shows."

While NBC is still unsure what its late-night lineup will be, Tassler said CBS is close to signing deals that will keep David Letterman and Craig Ferguson in place through mid-2012.

NBC sends its executives to meet with journalists in Pasadena on Sunday, but it's still not clear if they'll have anything to announce. Under a scenario that would bring Leno back to late-night, the Conan O'Brien-hosted "Tonight" show would move back a half hour, and it's not known whether he'll accept that.

He might find a warm welcome waiting for him at Fox.

Fox respects O'Brien's talent and sees him as a good fit, a person at the network said Friday. The person, who lacked authority to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Fox was watching to see how the situation played out but that O'Brien remained under contract with NBC.

Representatives for O'Brien did not immediately respond to requests for comment about his plans.

ABC, for its part, indicated a lack of interest if O'Brien becomes a free agent.

"With all due respect to Conan, we like the late night hand that we are currently playing," the network, home of "Nightline" in the late-night slot, said in a statement Friday.

Reid to Obama: Sorry for 'no Negro dialect' remark

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid apologized on Saturday for saying the race of Barack Obama—whom he described as a "light skinned" African-American "with no Negro dialect, unless he wanted to have one"—would help rather than hurt his eventual presidential bid.

Obama quickly accepted, saying "As far as I am concerned, the book is closed." Reid, facing a tough re-election bid this year, spent the day telephoning civil rights leaders and fellow Democrats in hopes of mitigating the political damage.

The revelations about Reid's 2008 comments were included in the book "Game Change" by Time Magazine's Mark Halperin and New York magazine's John Heilemann. The behind-the-scenes look at the 2008 campaign that elevated Obama to the White House is based on the writers' interviews with more than 200 sources, most of whom were granted anonymity and thus much of the material could not be immediately corroborated.

Among the details in the book:

■ Presidential rival Hillary Rodham Clinton said she believed Obama's team had used out-of-state supporters to win the Iowa caucuses and had intentionally exploited Obama's race. She said the country faced a "a terrible choice" between Obama and Republican nominee John McCain.

■ Obama and running mate Joe Biden barely spoke, kept separate schedules and seldom campaigned together. The campaign kept Biden off the nightly calls that included Obama, instead having the campaign manager and senior strategist brief Biden separately.

■ Aides to McCain described the difficulties they faced with their vice presidential pick, then-Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. Steve Schmidt, a senior adviser to McCain, is quoted telling Palin's foreign policy tutors: "You guys have a lot of work to do. She doesn't know anything."

■ Former President Bill Clinton's efforts to persuade Sen. Edward M. Kennedy to endorse his wife's presidential bid fell flat when Clinton told the Democratic lawmaker that just a few years ago, Obama would have been serving the pair coffee.

But what caused the biggest stir Saturday was the Reid statement.

"He (Reid) was wowed by Obama's oratorical gifts and believed that the country was ready to embrace a black presidential candidate, especially one such as Obama—a 'light-skinned' African American 'with no Negro dialect, unless he wanted to have one,' as he later put it privately," according to the book.

After new excerpts from the book appeared on the Web site of The Atlantic, Reid released a statement expressing regret for "using such a poor choice of words. I sincerely apologize for offending any and all Americans, especially African-Americans for my improper comments."

Charlie Sheen tapes first show since felony arrest

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Charlie Sheen is back at work at "Two and a Half Men," and his producer said Saturday that the audience at the actor's first show taping since his arrest on felony and other charges was "incredibly supportive."

Sheen taped an episode of the top-rated CBS comedy on Friday. He was arrested Christmas Day in Aspen, Colo., on suspicion of domestic violence and other charges. Sheen's wife, Brooke, told police he put a knife to her throat, an accusation the actor denies. Attorneys say the couple wants to reconcile.

Sheen showed up at work Monday and rehearsals went well, said Chuck Lorre, the show's creator and executive producer. He said the incident wasn't ignored, but wouldn't say how it came up backstage. Lorre said Sheen seems to be doing as well as he can under the circumstances.

"We did a live show in front of a studio audience and it was a big success for us," Lorre said. "We just came back to work."

AP

This May 21, 2006 file photo, shows actor Charlie Sheen as he arrives for the screening of the film "Platoon,"at the 59th International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

A day before the taping, Pitkin County Chief Deputy District Attorney Arnold Mordkin said that a Colorado judge ruled that Sheen must appear in person Feb. 8 for an Aspen hearing on suspicion of felony menacing, domestic violence and other charges.

Hanesbrands Inc., meanwhile, said it is ending its advertising campaign featuring Sheen. Company spokesman Matt Hall said the seriousness of the allegations against the 44-year-old actor made the decision necessary.

The "Two and a Half Men" production schedule was not altered because of the incident, he said.

Nina Tassler, CBS entertainment president, said the network has been "very sensitive to the fact that this is a very personal and private matter for Charlie."

CBS took the same "the show must go on" tack last fall when David Letterman admitted to affairs with staff members following an alleged extortion attempt.

Thousands celebrate the King's 75th at Graceland

AP

Beverley Costello places flowers on the grave of Elvis Presley at Graceland, Presley's home in Memphis, Tenn., on Friday, Jan. 8, 2010, Presley's 75th birthday.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—About 3,000 fans joined Priscilla Presley, Lisa Marie and Elvis Presley's grandkids Friday at Graceland to celebrate what would have been the King of Rock 'n' Roll's 75th birthday.

An international contingent of fans came to commemorate the event. Some came from as far away as Europe, while other fans were right from the King's adopted hometown of Memphis, where he died at Graceland in 1977 at the age of 42.

"I had to come. This is a special day. Seventy-five years is a wonderful period in Elvis' life. I'm out here to support Priscilla and Lisa Marie, and I think so much of them and respect them and their family," said Memphis resident Roger Harvey.

"It means everything to be here. You're counting the days down until you can get on that plane," said Craig Smith of Britain.

For Priscilla Presley, Presley's ex-wife and mother of his only child, Lisa Marie, the day was "bittersweet."

"It's very difficult for me to even fathom that it's been 75 years for him. It's certainly bittersweet," she said. "Elvis has got the greatest fans. All of us here at Elvis Presley Enterprises are always amazed at the support, the loyalty. I mean, they have certainly helped his legacy be where it is today, there is no doubt," she added.

She said Presley probably wouldn't have made a big fuss over the milestone.

"Elvis wasn't really big on having a whole lot of people, he liked it a little more intimate. He would definitely bring in family of course, friends, very close, intimate friends that he's had more many years," she said. "That's what he really enjoyed the most is people that he knew and friends that he had for gosh, going back to high school years."

At the Graceland ceremony, two of his grandchildren cut a birthday cake that was later shared with the crowd.

When asked what went through her mind at that moment, Priscilla Presley said: "I thought, my gosh, if Elvis only knew that he would have such beautiful grandchildren, so supportive to him, and how beautiful they are. It is bittersweet. He would have been very, very proud, absolutely very proud of his grandchildren."

Marvel sues to keep Spider-Man, X-Men copyrights

NEW YORK (AP)—The home of superheroes including Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four and the X-Men sued one of its most successful artists Friday to retain the rights to the lucrative characters.

The federal lawsuit filed Friday in Manhattan by Marvel Worldwide Inc. asks a judge to invalidate 45 notices sent by the heirs of artist Jack Kirby to try to terminate Marvel's copyrights, effective on dates ranging from 2014 through 2019.

The heirs notified several companies last year that the rights to the characters would revert from Marvel to Kirby's estate.

The lawsuit said Kirby's work on the comics published between 1958 and 1963 were "for hire" and render the heirs' claims invalid. The famed artist died in 1994.

The lawsuit was dismissed by Kirby's attorney Marc Toberoff, who issued a statement saying the heirs were merely trying to take advantage of change to copyright law that allows artists to recapture rights to their work.

"It is a standard claim predictably made by comic book companies to deprive artists, writers, and other talent of all rights in their work," the statement said of Marvel's lawsuit.

"The Kirby children intend to vigorously defend against Marvel's claims in the hope of finally vindicating their father's work."

The statement claimed Kirby was never properly compensated for his contributions to Marvel's universe of superheroes.

"Sadly, Jack died without proper compensation, credit or recognition for his lasting creative contributions," the statement said.

Comic book characters such as Spider-Man and the X-Men have become some of Hollywood's most bankable properties in recent years.

The lawsuit said the comic book titles in the notices to which Kirby claims to have contributed include "Amazing Adventures," "Amazing Fantasy," "Amazing Spider-Man," "The Avengers," the "Fantastic Four," "Fantastic Four Annual," "The Incredible Hulk," "Journey into Mystery," "Rawhide Kid," "Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos," "Strange Tales," "Tales to Astonish," "Tales of Suspense" and "The X-Men."

John Turitzin, a Marvel lawyer, said in a statement that the heirs were trying "to rewrite the history of Kirby's relationship with Marvel."

He added: "Everything about Kirby's relationship with Marvel shows that his contributions were works made for hire and that all the copyright interests in them belong to Marvel."

Ex-UCLA researcher pleads guilty to record breach

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former UCLA School of Medicine researcher pleaded guilty to reading confidential medical records of celebrities, high-profile patients and his co-workers in federal court on Friday.

Los Angeles resident Huping Zhou, 38, entered a conditional guilty plea to four counts of violating federal medical privacy laws in a hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew J. Wistrich.

Zhou, who was dismissed from UCLA for job performance issues on Nov. 14, 2003, wrongly viewed UCLA patient records 323 times between Oct. 29 and Nov. 19 that year, said Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Most of the records breaches involved well-recognized celebrities, Mrozek said. To protect their privacy, patients were not named in the plea agreement but identified by the initials M.D. (aka M.K.); J.F. (aka D.S) and D.C.

Zhou is scheduled for sentencing March 22, and could face a maximum penalty of four years in federal prison.

Zhou, who is a licensed cardiothoracic surgeon in China and was provided a Mandarin translation of his plea agreement, had "no idea that looking at another person's medical records was a federal criminal violation for which you could go to jail," said his attorney Edward Robinson.

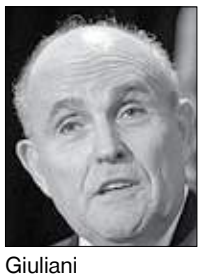
Robinson said the guilty plea was conditional because Zhou reserves the right to argue that his case should have been dismissed and that he can withdraw his guilty plea in appeals, which Robinson intends to file for after sentencing.

"There's absolutely no proof that he disseminated (the records), gave them to anyone, merely that he just looked," said Robinson. "There's no way on earth Huping knew, and most likely nobody else would know in his situation, that looking at those records was a federal crime."

Giuliani: No domestic terror attacks under Bush

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani set off a tempest about terrorism Friday with his claim that this nation "had no domestic attacks" under President George W. Bush.

Giuliani somehow neglected to mention the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as he was contrasting President Barack Obama's handling of terrorism with that of Bush in light of the failed Christmas Day attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound flight. The Sept. 11 attacks toppled New York's World Trade Center, killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania and earned Giuliani accolades as "America's mayor."



Giuliani

The Republican said of Obama on ABC's "Good Morning America" that "what he should be doing is following the right things that Bush did."

While saying he believes Obama "turned the corner" on understanding the nature of terrorism when he publicly declared the U.S. at war, Giuliani added that Obama has plenty of room to improve on terrorism.

"We had no domestic attacks under Bush," Giuliani said. "We've had one under Obama."

That statement set off waves of protest in the blogosphere. And it echoed a recent claim by former Bush press secretary Dana Perino. GOP strategist Mary Matalin also recently said the Bush administration "inherited the most tragic attack on our soil in our nation's history," implying that the 9/11 attacks resulted from mistakes by the Clinton administration.

Bush replaced Clinton in the White House on Jan. 20, 2001, or almost eight months before the al-Qaida sponsored attacks.

When Giuliani was questioned later Friday about his statement, he explained to CNN's Wolf Blitzer that he misspoke.

RANDY JACKSON: No Lambert clone on next 'Idol'

AP

In this May 20, 2009 file photo originally released by Fox, finalists Adam Lambert, left, Kris Allen, center, and host Ryan Seacrest are seen during the season finale of American Idol in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There won't be anyone quite like Adam Lambert on the next season of "American Idol."

Easygoing "Idol" judge Randy Jackson told reporters during a Friday teleconference that he expected to see clones of the over-the-top eighth season runner-up or even croony champion Kris Allen show up to audition for the Fox talent competition's ninth season, which premieres Tuesday (8 p.m. EST), but there were none to be found this time around.

"Usually, whoever comes in first or second, that next season of auditions, you have a lot of those kinds of people," he said. "It's almost like a signal to everyone at home that was like them that now it's time to try out for 'American Idol.' It didn't happen like that this time. We got a very interesting, unique cast that's only unique to this season nine."

Jackson, who serves on the judging panel with Simon Cowell, Kara DioGuardi and newcomer Ellen DeGeneres, said audition cities Dallas and Atlanta offered singers with the most starpower while Orlando, Fla., was "really strange" in terms of finding talent. He also said he was on the lookout for female crooners because the past two winners have been male.

"I think there's some really talented girls that showed up this time," he said.

Police: Stern sidekick Artie Lange stabbed himself

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP)—Police say self-inflicted stab wounds put Howard Stern sidekick Artie Lange (LAYNG') in a New Jersey hospital.

AP

This April 27, 2006 file photo shows comedian and actor Artie Lange, from the Howard Stern radio show at the inaugural Howard Stern 2006 Film Festival in New York.

Hoboken Police Detective Mark Competello says Lange's mother found him on the floor of his waterfront home Saturday.

Competello says the 42-year-old comedian was unconscious but breathing after stabbing himself with a 13-inch Wolfgang Puck kitchen knife.

Lange was taken to Jersey City Medical Center. Competello says doctors cleaned nine abdominal knife wounds and operated. He says Lange has been released. In an e-mail Friday, Lange publicist Hilary Hansen declined to comment and asked that Lange's privacy be respected.

Stern has spoken of the suicide attempt and said his thoughts are with Lange's mother and sister.

'Hannah Montana' may be ending after next season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Hannah Montana" may be history.

A Disney Channel executive says the popular show starring Miley Cyrus is likely to shut down for good after filming its fourth season.

"You never know in this business ... but right now we're scheduled to wrap after shooting this new batch of episodes," Senior Vice President of Programming Adam Bonnett told the New York Post in its Friday edition.

A Disney spokeswoman confirmed his comments Friday but would not elaborate.

Production on season four is set to begin later this month, Bonnett said. Those episodes will start airing in late spring and continue through 2011.

Cyrus plays Miley Stewart, a high-school student who secretly leads a double life as pop star Hannah Montana. The fourth season will reflect the real-life struggle Cyrus is having about saying goodbye to the character that made her famous, the Post reports.

The current season is set to conclude in March with "a big one-hour event where we find out what Miley Stewart's decision is going to be," Bonnett said. "It's one of the things she's been wrestling with for months—whether it's time to make a decision to continue being Hannah Montana or just be a regular, ordinary girl."

"Hannah Montana" averages around 5 million viewers a week. A rep for Cyrus did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Adopted girl's fantasy life becomes series

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—An adopted girl who fantasized that her real mother was Nancy Reagan turned those youthful dreams into a television series.

The new CW network series "Life Unexpected," about a 16-year-old girl in foster care discovering her birth parents, came directly from the life of creator Liz Tigelaar. The series debuts on Jan. 18.

As a girl growing up in Texas, Tigelaar dreamed about who her birth parents were. Since she heard her birth mother lived in Washington, D.C., she believed it was Nancy Reagan—until her mother told her it was biologically unlikely. Tigelaar is 34; the former first lady is 88.

While Reagan didn't make it into the CW series, Tigelaar wrote a story informed by real-life experience.

"When you have no idea and have nothing to go on, you really create that story in your head," said Tigelaar, a former assistant on "Dawson's Creek" and writer of books for young adults who is now in charge of her first TV series. The actress who plays the girl in the series, Britt Robertson, looks like she could be Tigelaar's younger sister.

Even if they didn't live in the White House, Tigelaar said she always hoped her birth parents had cool jobs. The people in the series who connect with a daughter the father never knew he had are a radio DJ and bar owner.

Tigelaar met her birth mother for the first time in November.

"The first thing she said was, `I'm not a radio DJ,'" Tigelaar said.

Ruhr inaugurated as European Capital of Culture

ESSEN, Germany (AP)—The Ruhr area in western Germany, with its 53 cities and 5.3 million inhabitants, has been officially inaugurated as European Capital of Culture 2010—the first time an entire region was chosen for the title.

German President Horst Koehler said Saturday at the opening ceremony in Essen that in the Ruhr area, which is known for its history of coal mining and steel production, "culture is not an elite event, but it is providing vivid strength for everybody."

Thousands of art and cultural events are planned for the year and more than five million visitors are expected.

Since the decline of coal mining at the end of the last century, the once highly industrialized region has been struggling with severe unemployment and poverty.

Mexico transfers inmates for reported Gibson film

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)—About 300 inmates have been transferred out of a prison in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz to make room for a film that Mel Gibson reportedly plans to make there.

Ignacio Allende prison director Gerardo Duran says the inmates were being bused to at least four other jails.

About 1,200 prisoners remain at the facility in the city of Veracruz.

About 60 inmates' relatives protested Saturday's transfer, saying they will have to travel farther to pay visits. They scuffled briefly with police.

Veracruz Gov. Fidel Herrera has said that part of the prison would be emptied for a Gibson film.

Gibson representatives have not responded to inquiries.

Sisters' wedding pact doesn't stand up to the test of time

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When we were younger, my sister, "Patti," and I made a pact to be each other's maid of honor. It was Patti's suggestion, and we both thought I would soon marry my then-boyfriend. It didn't happen.

A few years later, when Patti became engaged, she asked a friend with whom she had recently reconnected to be her maid of honor. She never addressed the issue with me or offered any explanation. I was crushed, but kept mum. In the years that followed, my sister told me she regretted her decision and has apologized, which helped soothe my feelings.

Last week I became engaged. I want Patti in my wedding, but as a bridesmaid. My best friend, "Meg," has always been there for me in ways I never knew a friend could. I was her maid of honor three years ago, and cherished the experience as one that signified the meaning of our friendship.

I feel torn because of the promise I made to my sister, even though she didn't honor her promise to me. I don't want to hurt Patti, and I also don't want to seem retaliatory. Can you offer me any guidance?

MUDDLED MAIDEN IN TEXAS

DEAR MUDDLED MAIDEN: Yes. Patti's mistake was in not TALKING to you about the fact that she had changed her mind about having you as her maid of honor. My advice is to warmly invite your sister to join your wedding party as a bridesmaid, and explain why you have decided to ask your friend Meg to be maid of honor. You may find that Patti no longer expects you to keep that long ago promise, particularly in light of the fact that when she chose her bridal attendants she had a case of temporary amnesia.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Many people in the world appear indifferent to human suffering and the serious problems our planet is facing.

I am appalled when I see TV shows about food contests in which mounds of food are piled in front of each contender, who then wolfs down enough to feed five or six people.

Evidently the audience enjoys the spectacle. They cheer and applaud the winner as if he was a hero. Do they never think about the millions of people who are starving? I would appreciate your comments.

PRAGMATIST IN N.Y.

DEAR PRAGMATIST: No, I doubt they consider that while they are stuffing themselves, others are literally starving, nor have I heard that the sponsors have donated a portion of the proceeds to feed the hungry.

This Thanksgiving my local paper featured a color photo on the front page of a family celebrating at the beach, pulling a large turkey out of a fryer. Below the fold was another one, this of a woman in Sudan, sitting by a roadside, obviously undernourished, trying to sell her only goat so she could provide for herself and her family.

Closer to home, food banks are struggling and American children depend on school nutrition programs for survival, while audiences view eating contests as entertainment. And that's more obscene than any X-rated movie will ever be, in my opinion.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested —poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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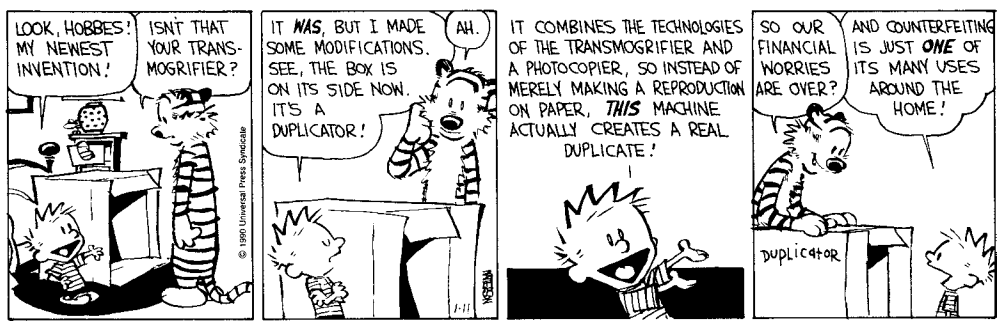
Pastimes

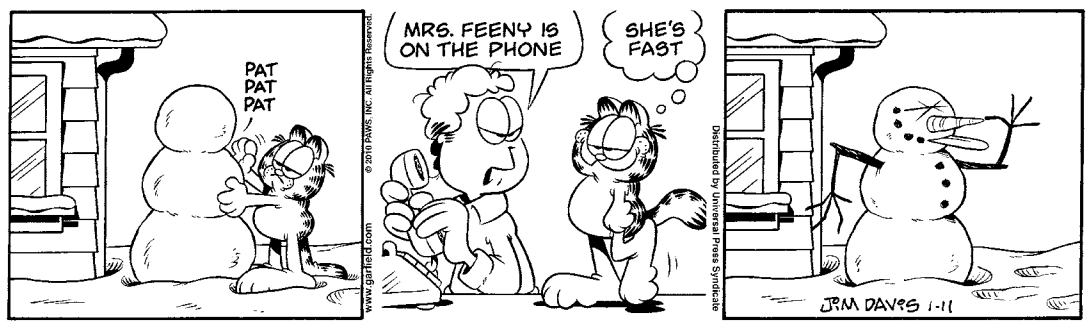
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, HOBBES! MY NEWEST INVENTION!
ISN'T THAT YOUR TRANSMOGRIFIER?
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
IT WAS, BUT I MADE SOME MODIFICATIONS. SEE, THE BOX IS ON ITS SIDE NOW. IT'S A DUPLICATOR!
AH.
IT COMBINES THE TECHNOLOGIES OF THE TRANSMOGRIFIER AND A PHOTOCOPIER, SO INSTEAD OF MERELY MAKING A REPRODUCTION ON PAPER, THIS MACHINE ACTUALLY CREATES A REAL DUPLICATE!
SO OUR FINANCIAL WORRIES ARE OVER?
AND COUNTERFEITING IS JUST ONE OF ITS MANY USES AROUND THE HOME!
DUPLICATOR

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

UH-OH. I'M FEELING SOMETHING COMING ON.
SOMETHING LIKE "GOOD LUCK"?
NOPE. SOMETHING LIKE A COLD.
I KNOW YOU. YOU'LL PSYCHE YOURSELF INTO BEING SICK EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
YOU NEED TO EXERT SOME POSITIVE THINKING TO BEAT THE COLD BACK BEFORE IT GETS BAD.
THINKING ISN'T GONNA BEAT THIS. I NEED SOMETHING MORE POWERFUL.
MEDICINE? VITAMINS?
FOOT RUB.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THAT'S WEIRD.
MY LEFT ARM AND MY LEFT LEG ARE BOTH ASLEEP.
1-7-10
www.gocomics.com
ISN'T THAT HALF-CAF YOU'RE DRINKING?
OH YEAH.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 With (Fr.)
5 Recipe meas.
8 Sleeping
12 Prima donna
13 Regret
14 Give a darn
15 Tel —
16 American dessert
18 Pepperdine University site
20 Type of bird dog
21 Intentions
23 Square root of IX
24 Draw near
28 Despot
31 Meadow
32 Porch
34 Compass pt.
35 Get your second wind
37 Book supplement
39 — Beta Kappa
41 Architect Saarinen
42 Scottish landowners
45 Many Christmas decorations
49 Highly pertinent
51 Hawaiian island
52 Acute
53 Fleur-de-—
54 Of the ear
55 Being (Lat.)
56 Chances, for short
57 Dilbert's workplace

DOWN
1 Leading man?
2 "— Las Vegas"
3 Satan's specialty
4 Fancy fish eggs
5 Disordered mental states
6 Dine
7 Energizes, with "up"
8 Vinegary
9 Christened
10 One of a Great quintet
11 Antelope's playmate
17 Garland from 51-Across
19 Life stories, for short
22 Range
24 Matterhorn, for one
25 "The Princess and the —"
26 Primitive wind instruments
27 Despairing
29 Blackbird
30 Tyrannosaurus —
33 Actress Gilpin
36 Royal perch
38 Worthless
40 Egos' counterparts
42 10-Down, e.g.
43 Tarzan's cronies
44 Missile shelter
46 Loathe
47 Not that
48 Leeches do it
50 Gratuity

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	F	E	T	C	H	■	C	R	A	F	T	S
T	E	R	E	S	A	■	R	E	B	O	O	T
A	T	O	M	I	C	■	E	N	C	O	D	E
R	A	S	P	■	I	C	E	D	■	T	O	P
■	■	■	I	K	E	A	■	S	C	H	■	■
A	K	A	■	A	N	T	S	■	I	O	N	A
H	O	N	E	Y	D	E	W	M	E	L	O	N
A	I	D	A	■	A	R	E	A	■	D	R	Y
■	■	■	E	T	A	■	E	E	L	S	■	■
O	R	R	■	C	A	R	T	■	L	E	E	K
T	O	S	S	U	P	■	P	I	E	R	R	E
I	D	E	A	T	E	■	E	N	D	I	N	G
S	E	N	D	E	R	■	A	S	S	E	S	■

Saturday's answer 1-11

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53				54			
55				■	56			■	57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Peet, 38; Mary J. Blige, 39; Naomi Judd, 64; Jean Chretien, 76

Happy Birthday: Keep your intentions and your actions a secret for now. Interference is the enemy and an added burden will come from an unexpected source. You will be in a much better position as time passes if you are willing to let go of what isn't working for you anymore. Your numbers are 3, 6, 12, 16, 27, 34, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't set yourself up for a fall by pushing for the impossible. You are better off maintaining for now, while observing what everyone else is doing. Don't limit what you can and cannot do because someone is burdening you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Shoot for the stars. You can accomplish anything you put your mind to. There is plenty to learn and to experiment with. Schedule wisely so you are sure to have time for the people and projects most important to you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Turn your interests into a solution or remedy for financial loss. Put what you know and do best to work for you. Work with what you have instead of trying to invent something new that may or may not be cost efficient. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A partnership will depend on your courage and your adaptability. Don't limit what you can do because you fear change. Look past the existing problems and see the possibilities. Focus on the here and now. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take on a challenging project, hobby or activity. Interact with someone you can learn from or who can help you with work, education or picking up additional skills. Who you know will be just as important as what you know. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Emotional issues may stand in the way of a good time. Don't forgo something you've been looking forward to because someone is being difficult or trying to make you feel guilty. Express your feelings and get on with what's really important to you. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may have to take the blame for something that is happening with a friend, relative or loved one. With an empathetic approach to what you see and hear, you can keep the peace and help everyone involved. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do not rely on someone else to fix things for you. Keep your feelings regarding someone from your past a secret. You could end up in an awkward position, being questioned by someone who is feeling uncertain about your future together. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Showing your emotions can work in your favor if you are honest about what you've done in the past and what you plan for the future. A change at home can bring about less personal and financial stress. Sizing down may be your only answer. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Helping others will be a reminder of how lucky you are. Do what you can to change someone else's life and it will undoubtedly change your own. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You cannot be anyone but who you are and, the sooner you start to appreciate yourself, the sooner everyone else will, too. Don't allow someone to put you down when it's jealousy that is behind such actions. Believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't take anything said to heart. Look beyond the present and focus on the future. Pull in favors and, at the same time, realize that you have some fans who are willing to help you get whatever you want. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have strength and courage. You are cautious but willing to check out new concepts. You are focused, fair and empathetic.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		9		7			
		9	8		2			1
		2		4		5	8	
9	6						1	3
		1		8		9		
2	3						5	4
	9	5		3		2		
3			7		1	4		
			5		6		3	

Difficulty Level ★ 1/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	8	3	6	7	4	1	2
6	2	3	1	4	8	9	7	5
1	4	7	2	9	5	6	8	3
2	6	9	8	1	4	5	3	7
8	7	4	9	5	3	1	2	6
3	5	1	7	2	6	8	9	4
7	3	6	4	8	9	2	5	1
9	1	5	6	7	2	3	4	8
4	8	2	5	3	1	7	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EATING IN SPACE **Solution: 9 letters**

E	N	G	N	I	G	A	K	C	A	P	A	S	T	A
G	Z	N	U	T	R	I	T	I	O	N	T	U	S	C
G	D	I	S	P	O	S	A	B	L	E	S	E	D	O
S	E	T	L	T	N	T	S	S	R	E	S	E	I	L
T	H	U	I	I	I	I	U	U	G	D	T	I	U	D
N	Y	T	D	U	B	P	M	A	N	A	N	W	Q	Y
E	D	I	S	R	P	A	R	A	I	E	E	A	I	G
M	R	T	E	L	I	E	T	D	T	I	M	R	L	O
E	A	S	Y	S	V	E	A	S	G	I	E	M	I	L
L	T	N	T	E	T	R	D	H	O	N	V	E	M	O
P	E	O	B	U	R	Ⓓ	T	A	E	M	O	R	E	N
P	D	C	B	I	Ⓞ	L	W	O	B	T	R	A	S	H
U	N	E	V	Ⓞ	E	R	E	D	W	O	P	E	S	C
S	S	R	Ⓕ	S	T	O	R	A	G	E	M	L	H	E
F	R	E	S	H	N	E	S	S	Q	U	I	C	K	T

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Beverages, Bowl, Clear, Cold, Dehydrated, Diet, Disposables, Dots, Dried, Eggs, Food, Freshness, Improvements, Irradiated, Land, Lids, Meat, Menus, Nutrition, Oven, Packaging, Pasta, Powder, Quick, Reconstituting, Semi-liquids, Storage, Suit, Supplements, Supply, Technology, Thermostabilize, Tubes, Vitamin, Warmer, Weightless

Last Saturday's Answer: Mission

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2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
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San Vicente area.
Contact no. 483-8295.

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Starting as low as... **$25.00**
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

WHATZIT Solution:
Scotch on the rocks

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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in Garapan across GIG
Renovated to accommodate Restaurants
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A TanHoldings Company

FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN is looking for:

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EMPLOYMENT

Misamis Construction has available Employment Openings in all Construction Trades. Please refer to the Department of Labor website.

JOB VACANCY

J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

SUPERVISOR

Please apply in person at the
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.
Human Resources Office
Joeten Center, Susupe
Monday to Friday, 8a.m. - 5p.m.

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff, -v- DANIEL JOSEPH M. CABRERA and MAGDALENA S. CABRERA, Defendants.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0054
THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 I 180, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 02, the original of which was recorded March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and (b) Tract No. 225840-1-1, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 15, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of December, 2009:

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, fka MARIANAS BANK, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- JUAN R. SABLAN and ANGELINE F. SABLAN, Defendants.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1054
THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an order issued by the Court in this matter on November 10, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Real property situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot E.A. 839 NEW-6-3, containing an area of 1,329 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. E.A. 839 NEW.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 15, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of December, 2009:

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**, Auctioneer

GLIMPSES ADVERTISING
GLIMPSES PUBLICATIONS

JOIN OUR GROUP

We are in search of the best candidate to fill the position of

OPERATIONS MANAGER

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Please submit summary of qualifications in person to HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT located at 2/F Transpac Business Center Middle Road Gualo Rai Saipan MP 96950 by February 1, 2010.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Closing Date:	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-006	Deputy Director for Water Wastewater	[One Position]	Negotiable; Ungraded	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan

Opening Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Closing Date:	Wednesday, January 20, 2010		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-007	Accounting Technician	[Four Positions]	$15,139 - $17,221	Two-year	Customer Serv., Billing, Credit & Coll., Saipan
10-008	Trades Assistant	[Two Positions]	$11,036 -12,692	Two-year	Water , Rota
10-009	Information Technology (IT) Analyst	[Two Positions]	$34,176 - $37,593	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-010*	Information Technology (IT) Specialist	[One Position]	$19,425 - $21, 610	Two-year	IT, Saipan

* *This is a re-announcement of JVA 09-023. All applicants of 09-023 will be included in 10-010.*

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

WHISKY
QUARTZITE
GRANITE

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Find today's solution in this section

Sanchez nearly flawless, Jets beat Bengals

CINCINNATI (AP)—With their rookie quarterback playing mistake-free, the New York Jets turned their surprising playoff appearance into a long-running production.

Mark Sanchez handled single-degree wind chills and the playoff pressure with no problems Saturday, throwing a touchdown pass on a rollout play, and the NFL's top running game took it from there, setting up a 24-14 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals.

Sanchez went 12 of 15 for 182 yards, becoming the fourth rookie quarterback since 1950 to start and win a playoff game. Considered the Jets' weakest link heading into the playoffs, he became their focal point.

"He just kept getting better as the season went along," coach Rex Ryan said. "I told him this was his second season now. His first season is over. This is the playoffs."

Third-round pick Shonn Greene ran for 135 yards, including a 39-yard touchdown, as the Jets' rookies made the pivotal plays under the biggest pressure.

The Jets (10-7) got their first playoff victory since 2004 and pulled off a rare back-to-back sweep of the Bengals (10-7), who got a team playoff-record 169 yards from Cedric Benson but little else. Cincinnati's streak without a playoff win reached 19 years and counting.

The Jets?

"They might have a chance to make a move," Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer said. "Their defense is that good."

Cincinnati went to the Meadowlands six days earlier and was flattened. The Jets ran for 257 yards, and the Bengals managed a total of 72 yards, with Chad Ochocinco getting shut out.

Little changed the second time around.

"This was a great team effort," said Ryan, who won in his playoff debut as a head coach. "We're a good football team. If people don't believe that, they soon will."

No one should count the Jets out now, not the way their coach did two weeks ago. Ryan thought the Jets were out of contention following a 10-7 loss to the Falcons that was set up by Sanchez's three interceptions. Then, everything lined up in their favor.

AP

New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (6) passes under pressure from Cincinnati Bengals defensive end Jonathan Fanene (68) in the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010, in Cincinnati.

The Colts pulled their starters a week later, allowing the Jets to rally for a win, while four other playoff contenders lost. Then, the AFC North champs showed up at the Meadowlands last week and lost 37-0 with little at stake.

Ryan's father, Buddy, was the defensive line coach for the '69 Jets, who won the Super Bowl title that Broadway Joe Namath had guaranteed. These Jets came into the playoffs as an off-Broadway show, lacking a star quarterback who could deliver a win.

Until Saturday.

Sanchez looked like a playoff pro, joining Shaun King, Joe Flacco and Ben Roethlisberger as rookie quarterbacks to win postseason starts. His passer rating was a stratospheric 139.4.

At times, Sanchez found himself on the sideline soaking it all in.

"It just blows your mind," he said. "It's unbelievable. I hope I have this feeling next week."

Sanchez was by far the lowest-ranked passer in the playoffs, throwing 20 interceptions in his rookie season—second-most in the league. The Bengals wanted to put the game in his hands. Playing without a glove on his passing hand in an 8-degree wind chill, the kid from Southern California handled it without a bobble.

Afterward, the team present a game ball to owner Woody Johnson, whose daughter, Casey, was found dead in her Los Angeles home on Monday.

The Jets had a scare at the outset when punter Steve Weatherford was ruled out because of dizziness and an elevated heartbeat. Kicker Jay Feely punted for the first time in his NFL career, averaging 31 yards on seven kicks. He also made 20-yard field goal with 5:47 to go that put Cincinnati too far behind.

"I was so happy that I was kicking a field goal (then) instead of punting," Feely said. "That was great."

The Jets pulled ahead 14-7 by halftime with two big plays off Sanchez's hand. He faked a handoff and made a perfect pitchout to Greene, who needed only one block to find open space for a 39-yard touchdown run, the longest of his career.

In the second quarter, Sanchez caught the Bengals off-guard. He rolled to his right and found tight end Dustin Keller running uncovered beyond the secondary. The throw was perfect, and Keller kept his balance for the last 15 yards while safety Chinedum Ndukwe vainly tried to knock him out of bounds.

At halftime, Sanchez was 7 of 10 for 94 yards with a passer rating of 132.9. It could have been even better—Braylon Edwards let a pass slip through his hands in the end zone.

Sanchez led an eight-play, 75-yard drive that culminated in Thomas Jones' 9-yard run for a 21-7 lead late in the third quarter. Benson broke a 47-yard touchdown run—the longest in Bengals playoff history—that got Cincinnati within a touchdown, but Sanchez and Greene turned it on again.

The game ended with a little more Jets serendipity. Shayne Graham, the Bengals' franchise-tagged player, missed two field goals in the second half, including a 28-yarder with 3:49 to go that essentially sealed it.

Cowboys 34, Eagles 14

At Arlington, Texas, quarterback Tony Romo broke open a scoreless game with five straight scoring drives in the second quarter, sending Dallas to its first playoff victory since 1996.

Dallas had lost six straight postseason games and would've set an NFL record with another one. But now all those slumps are history, buried along with the notions that Wade Phillips (0-4 as a head coach) and Romo (0-2) couldn't win a playoff game.

And the way the Cowboys have played over the last four games—all wins, behind dominating defense and efficient offense—they could be sticking around a while this postseason.

Next up for Dallas is a trip to the Minnesota Vikings next Sunday, with Romo taking on childhood hero Brett Favre.

Philadelphia lost its playoffs opener for the first time under coach Andy Reid. The Eagles had been 7-0 in playoff openers with Reid and 6-0 with Donovan McNabb at quarterback.

Seahawks CEO flying to LA to meet with Carroll

SEATTLE (AP)—The chief executive of the Seattle Seahawks is headed to California to meet with Pete Carroll, as the struggling team closes in on a deal with the charismatic coach at Southern California.

A Seahawks spokesman confirmed Saturday night that team CEO Tod Leiweke will fly to Los Angeles on Sunday to interview Carroll for the coaching position and that the talks could last into Monday morning.

The Seahawks still do not have an agreement despite widespread reports, but are closing in on a coaching contract, according to a league official with direct knowledge of Seattle's coaching search.

The official told The Associated Press Saturday the team is in "discussions" with Carroll and does not plan on giving him the additional title of president. The official added the Seahawks will hire a general manager and coach separately.

"No, they do not have an agreement. They are not there," the official told the AP, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Seahawks are not commenting on how far talks have progressed. "(Seattle) would not name him GM or president—for obvious reasons."

The last time the Seahawks gave a coach dual authority as a GM was in 1999, when they lured Mike Holmgren from Green Bay. By 2003, they had stripped Holmgren of the GM duties—and only after he was simply the coach did the franchise realize its finest seasons and make its only Super Bowl.

When asked if Carroll will become the eighth coach in Seattle's 34-year history, the official said all signs point that way, just "not so fast" as has been reported.

Carroll coached the New York Jets and New England Patriots a decade ago and has spent the last nine years at USC. He is under consideration by a Seattle team that went 5-11 this season and fired coach Jim Mora on Friday after one miserable season.

ESPN, which hired Carroll to provide analysis for this week's national championship game, said Carroll had reached a preliminary coaching agreement.

The Los Angeles Times had reported that the Seahawks—owned by Microsoft Corp. tycoon Paul Allen, for whom money is no limitation—are believed to be offering Carroll a five-year contract worth $7 million a season to be president and coach. That would be a raise of more than $2 million annually on what Carroll is thought to be earning at USC.

Carroll's agent, Gary Uberstine, did not return calls and e-mails from the AP on Friday and Saturday.

The Seahawks interviewed Minnesota defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier on Saturday, something that by the league's Rooney Rule had to happen before any offer can be made to Carroll. Teams must interview minority candidates for head coaching jobs.

The Seahawks are 9-23 since their last playoff game in January 2008. Four weeks ago they forced general manager and president Tim Ruskell to resign. Friday's firing of Mora, who had three years and $12 million remaining on his contract, left Seattle without a coach, general manager or president less than four years after reaching the Super Bowl.

Carroll was 6-10 in 1994 with the Jets and then 27-21 while twice reaching the playoffs from 1997-99 with the Patriots. He then restored a dynasty at USC beginning in 2001.

This opportunity is unique for Carroll. The Seahawks still do not have a GM, so he could conceivably have authority over football matters as he has at USC, and far more than he would have had filling any of the NFL coaching openings to which he's been connected in recent winters.

This was perhaps the best time to leave the Trojans since he arrived in 2001. USC's string of seven consecutive Pac-10 titles ended with four losses this season. And the school has been under several years of NCAA scrutiny for alleged improprieties on Carroll's team and in athletic director Mike Garrett's beleaguered department.

When receiver Damian Williams announced he would enter the NFL, the news release of his departure Friday night didn't include a comment from Carroll, who often lavishes praise on his early-entry candidates.

If Carroll is indeed leaving college, USC's recruits must now decide whether to honor their commitments to the Trojans or re-enter the recruiting derby late in process.

University of Washington coach Steve Sarkisian left his friend Carroll and the Trojans 12 months ago for his first head coaching job. He was asked if he'd like to be a head man in the same city as his mentor.

"That would be kind of fun," Sarkisian said. "He's a great coach."

Magic routs division rival Hawks

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—The Orlando Magic asserted its dominance over NBA Southeast Division rival Atlanta by thumping the Hawks 113-81 on Saturday.

J.J. Redick scored 17 points in place of an injured Vince Carter as Orlando ended a four-game losing streak and pushed its divisional lead over the Hawks back out to 1-1/2 games.

Matt Barnes finished with 18 points to help the Magic build a 38-point lead at one point.

Atlanta was led by Al Horford's 14 points.

AP

Orlando Magic guard J.J. Redick (7) goes behind Atlanta Hawks guard Jamal Crawford (11) for a shot during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010.

Jazz 111, Mavericks 93

In Dallas, Deron Williams had 20 points and 9 assists in his return to the lineup as Utah downed Dallas.

Carlos Boozer added 15 points for the Jazz, who made up for blowing a winning chance in their previous meeting, never allowing its lead to fall below 13 points in the game's final 21 minutes.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points for Southwest Division-leading Dallas.

Kings 102, Nuggets 100

In Sacramento, California, Tyreke Evans made the tiebreaking jump shot in the final second as Sacramento snapped a season-worst five-game losing skid in style against Denver.

Evans, who finished with 27 points, sank a 10-footer to cap a wild fourth quarter where the lead changed hands frequently. J.R. Smith missed a desperation 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

Chauncey Billups had 27 points for Denver and made a 3-pointer from 25 feet to level it at 100-100 with 11 seconds remaining.

The Nuggets played a fifth straight game without injured star Carmelo Anthony because of a knee injury. The NBA's second-leading scorer is expected to play Tuesday.

Bobcats 89, Grizzlies 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace tipped in Raymond Felton's missed shot at the buzzer to give Charlotte a tight win over Memphis.

Felton scored 19 points and Wallace had 18 points and eight rebounds for the Bobcats, who improved to 13-4 at home.

O.J. Mayo scored 25 points for the Grizzlies, who fell to an 0-8 record when playing on the second night of back-to-back games.

Thunder 108, Pacers 102

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant matched his season high with 40 points as Oklahoma City downed Indiana.

Russell Westbrook added 18 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Thunder (20-16), who are already just three wins shy of matching their total from last season.

Danny Granger scored 25 points to lead Indiana, which has lost nine straight road games.

Bulls 110, Timberwolves 96

In Chicago, the hosts won their first game in four by defeating Minnesota.

Joakim Noah had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Kirk Hinrich had 20 points and seven assists for the Bulls.

Ryan Gomes led Minnesota with 15 points.

76ers 104, Pistons 94

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Detroit was beaten by Philadelphia, falling to its 12th straight loss.

The losing skid is the Pistons' worst since 1993-94.

Elton Brand matched a season high with 25 points for the 76ers, while Ben Gordon had 20 points, including the 10 millionth point in NBA history, led the Pistons.

Rockets 105, Knicks 96

In Houston, Luis Scola matched a season high with 23 points as Houston downed New York to win its first game in four.

Aaron Brooks added 20 for the Rockets.

David Lee had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks.

Glover barely keeps his lead

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Even with a three-shot lead at Kapalua going into the weekend, U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover figured it would be tight. Surely, a few players in this winners-only field would post a low score, and a few guys wouldn't.

He just didn't think he would be the one struggling to get by Saturday.

Or that so many others would get into the hunt.

Glover went from a three-shot lead to a two-shot deficit in the SBS Championship, only to have his fortunes change as quickly as the direction of the wind. Three birdies over his last five holes allowed him to salvage a 2-under 71 and a one-shot lead over defending champion Geoff Ogilvy going into a final round with endless possibilities.

"Everybody wants an opportunity on Sunday, and I have that," Glover said.

Glover can attribute that to his finish, when the Kona wind shifted to the prevailing trade wind. That made the par-5 18th hole play shorter than its 663 yards, and it helped that Glover pounded a drive that rolled out 406 yards. He reached the green easily and two-putted from 60 feet to walk off the Plantation Course at Kapalua with the lead.

"I knew it was going to tighten up," Glover said. "Some guys were going to play well, and some guys weren't. That happened to be me."

He was at 17-under 202 and will play in the final group with the defending champion.

Ogilvy had a 5-under 68, his seventh consecutive round in the 60s at Kapalua, with his only blemish coming on the 16th. That's about when Ogilvy noticed the switch in the wind, found the worst spot—a bunker—and

SBS CHAMPIONSHIP

advanced the ball only about 80 yards in making bogey.

He also birdied the final hole to give himself a chance at starting another year with a win.

The final round figures to be anything but at two-man race.

Martin Laird of Scotland had a 4-under 69 and was at 204, while Ryan Moore shot 68 and was another shot back. The group at 206 included three major champions—Retief Goosen, Stewart Cink and Angel Cabrera.

Glover showed that a three-shot lead isn't safe. Eleven players were separated by five shots going into the last day, with five of them major champions.

"It's that sort of week," Ogilvy said. "There are cases when guys go crazy and win by a lot. It can bunch up guys as well. It doesn't matter what you're shooting."

It was one of the most unusual days at Kapalua, and players with deep local knowledge could have known what to expect when neighboring Molokai was shrouded with "vog," which is produced by volcanic ashes that drift from 100 miles away on the Big Island without the prevailing trade wind to disperse it.

Glover is making only his second trip to Kapalua and most likely is not aware of vog. What he did notice walking down the first fairway was Troy Matteson playing from a 40-foot valley of light rough beyond the ninth fairway.

The typical play in this wind is to hit iron off the 521-yard ninth hole to keep from running through the fairway. Matteson and Bo Van Pelt opted for driver down the valley, leaving a blind shot to the green—but also a short iron instead of another long iron.

They were among seven players who took that route, and Glover joined them.

"Walking down No. 1, I saw Troy and Bo, and it didn't look like they had a bad lie," Glover said. "I didn't know if I could hold a fairway metal downwind. That was the thinking there. I never even thought about it before. Even on Tuesday and Wednesday, the wind wasn't blowing that hard."

Six of those seven players made birdie, and it came at the right time for Glover.

Having missed birdie chances on three straight holes early in the round, he lost his feel for the speed on the Bermuda greens had consecutive three-putts, one that went 8 feet by the hole, another that came up 8 feet short.

Suddenly, he was no longer in the lead.

The birdie on nine settled him, and he found his speed on the back nine with short but tricky birdie putts on the 14th and 16th holes that enabled him to regain the lead as he tries to give Kapalua a wire-to-wire winner for the second straight year.

Glover would have preferred a big lead, the way Ogilvy built a six-shot lead, although being in the hunt at the start of a new year was all he had in mind at the start of the week.

Having this much company?

Ogilvy walked off the 17th green and stared at a leaderboard for the longest time. Each page that turned continued to have player after player easily within range of the lead.

"This is a course where there's still 10 guys who can win," Ogilvy said.

Gutierrez, Mariners finalize $20.5 million deal

SEATTLE (AP)—Franklin Gutierrez grew up in downtown Caracas, in a house that he says "wasn't very large, normal."

"My mother and father took me to ballgames," Gutierrez said on Friday. "They would do everything they could do to buy a glove for me, and a bat."

Now, their son can give back to Franklin Sr. and Leida. Many times over.

The center fielder and the Seattle Mariners finalized a $20.5 million, four-year contract on Friday that includes a team option for 2014, a deal that avoided salary arbitration.

"It's a great day," the 26-year-old defensive whiz said, flashing a pair of star-shaped diamonds in each earlobe. "I'm really excited. It's something that I think any player wants—and not everybody gets.

He returned to Seattle after spending Christmas back home in Venezuela.

"My parents started crying," he said. "They told me I deserved it, because I worked hard my whole life."

Gutierrez set career highs by hitting .283 with 18 homers and 70 RBIs last season, his first in Seattle. He also made several Gold Glove-caliber catches while playing a career-high 153 games.

"For sure, this gives more security to your life," said Gutierrez, who was married and said he may buy a condominium in Seattle with some of his new cash.

He thanked Mariners trainers for getting him through knee pain last year, and said his knees are "great" after he chose rest instead of playing winter ball in Venezuela this offseason.

He also thanked hitting coach Alan Cockrell for making a small but substantial switch in his batting stance early last season. Gutierrez used to keep almost all of his weight on his back foot as the pitch arrived. Cockrell had Gutierrez center his weight, making him more balanced. Gutierrez said the shift allowed him to see pitches more clearly, quicken his swing—and change his career.

"That was a huge difference for me," he said. "That gave me huge confidence."

It's all perhaps more than the surging Mariners expected when they acquired him in December 2008 from Cleveland in a trade that sent former All-Star closer J.J. Putz to the New York Mets.

"We thought Franklin would take off as an offensive player," general manager Jack Zduriencik said, noting Gutierrez was the centerpiece of a trade the GM almost made when he was an assistant with Milwaukee a couple of years ago. "I do believe the best days are ahead for this young player."

Gutierrez and Gold Glove right fielder Ichiro Suzuki give Seattle one of Major League Baseball's best defensive outfields.

"We feel he was the best defensive center fielder in the American League last year, and he was a huge part of the success of our pitching staff leading the AL in ERA," Zdurienicik said. "Offensively, his combination of speed and power is a perfect fit for our club—and he is an outstanding person."

In 2009, Gutierrez became only the ninth player in Mariners history to have 15 homers and 15 stolen bases in a season. He led major league outfielders with 445 putouts.

"We're all excited about what this player can be," Zduriencik said.

Pacquiao moving on, Mayweather still wants fight

GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING

LOS ANGELES (AP)—While Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s camp believes his prospective bout with Manny Pacquiao can be saved, Pacquiao's promoter says he's moving on.

After six weeks of contentious negotiations failed to produce a compromise on Mayweather's insistence on stringent drug testing for the bout, Pacquiao has made plans to fight welterweight Joshua Clottey in mid-March, Top Rank boss Bob Arum told The Associated Press on Friday.

"This is crazy. We've moved on," Arum said.

Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer, who works with Mayweather, wasn't ready to give up. He's worried Top Rank hasn't told Pacquiao that the potential richest fight in boxing history could be saved if the Filipino star would agree to take a blood test for performance-enhancing drugs 14 days before the proposed March 13 bout—just 10 days later than Pacquiao already agreed.

"I am hopeful that this fight can still happen," Schaefer told the AP. "No matter what, Floyd Mayweather will fight at the MGM Grand (in Las Vegas) on March 13. I hope the man across that ring will be Manny Pacquiao."

Schaefer was angered when Arum came out of the camps' mediation hearing on Tuesday blaming Mayweather for the fight's collapse, saying Mayweather wouldn't agree to a final blood test 24 days before the bout. Schaefer claims Top Rank turned down a compromise of 14 days on New Year's Eve, but he wasn't sure whether Pacquiao—who's at home in the Philippines—was involved in that decision.

Both fighters stand to make much more than $25 million apiece from the much-anticipated bout.

"If they don't want to do the fight, they should have said it a long time ago and not messed around," Schaefer said. "Anything Bob states (about the mediation) is wrong, and there are absolute lies."

AP

In this Nov. 11, 2009, file photo, Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, speaks during a news conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

That's almost exactly the sentiment of Arum two days earlier, when he said Mayweather turned down a mediation deal setting the blood test at 24 days before the bout. Schaefer said there never was such a deal.

Arum said he relayed the 14-day proposal to Pacquiao's camp in the Philippines and was turned down.

"We did transmit it to (Pacquiao adviser) Michael Koncz," Arum said. "We can't say what went on the mediation. We're not permitted to, but if it ever came out what happened in the mediation, it would make all of this an absurdity. Manny Pacquiao was informed and rejected it as it happened, and we communicated to (Golden Boy executive Bruce) Binkow that it was a nonstarter."

No matter who's right, the negotiations have turned personal and poisonous between the two dominant American boxing promotional companies.

Arum and Mayweather, who worked together earlier in Mayweather's career, traded blows through the media this week, with Arum calling Mayweather "a psychological coward" and criticizing Schaefer, who said he heard about Arum's insults through his children.

"He has a tremendous dislike for Floyd and Oscar (De La Hoya) and myself," Schaefer said. "It's unbelievable and frankly embarrassing for me and my kids."

Schaefer said Mayweather's newfound insistence on stringent drug testing was grounded in Mayweather's desire to "add an extra level of protection for fighters" throughout the sport, though he didn't say why Mayweather chose to make that stand before this particular fight. Pacquiao filed a lawsuit against Mayweather's camp last month, claiming several members had defamed him by intimating he uses performance-enhancing drugs.

Yet Mayweather has long been outspoken against doping in sports, criticizing Sugar Shane Mosley for what Mosley claims was inadvertent use of performance-enhancing drugs before a 2003 bout.

"Bob says this kind of testing wasn't done 40 years ago? Well, a lot of things weren't done 40 years ago," Schaefer said. "If this fight happens or doesn't happen, it's going to be the catalyst to bring new levels of protection. We want to lead the charge here. It's a safety issue."

Schaefer said Mayweather will insist on similarly stringent drug tests for whoever is chosen as his opponent on March 13. Paulie Malignaggi had been rumored to be the top candidate to fight Mayweather if the Pacquiao deal collapsed.

SMITH

From Page 28

received $30 each and also water park passes for two at Saipan World Resort

In the solo division, Buitrago timed in at 41:28, more than a minute ahead of Carey, who completed the aquathon in 43:42. In third place was Matt Mancao, who posted 49:22.

In the 8-and-under division, which had a distance of 100 meters for the swim leg and 1 km for the run part, Lukas Kang won with a time of 11:42.

Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanao ruled the 9 to 12 age group with his combined time of 16:59 in the 200m swim and 1km run (from starting line to Minatchom Atdao and back)

In the 500m swim and 3km run (from starting line to Oleai beach park and back), Kensuke Kimura was the top finisher in the boys' 13 to 16 division with his time of 16:48. Coming in after more than five minutes was girls' 13 to 16 division top placer Angel De Jesus.

John Jenkins prevailed in the anything goes division (500m swim and 3k run), timing in at 21:46, while Tamio Nishikido (1km swim and 5km run) ruled the masters division with a timed of 44:19.

This year's Tank 2 Tank aquathon is the first for Marianas Tourism Education Council since 2006 and the event returned with a bang after a three-year absence, as it drew 72 participants.

"We had a record number of participants and we are thankful to all participants, volunteers, and sponsors for making this event possible," MTEC president Ed Cho of Saipan Grand Hotel said.

MATANSA

From Page 28

sa played for five extra minutes, but the extension did not change the outcome, giving the latter the perpetual trophy and joining the former in the elite group.

Matansa' title-clinching win capped the team's perfect fall season. It swept the two-round regular season and beat MP United in the first round of the playoffs, 4-0, to advance to the finals.

Besides Smith, Wonenberg, and Tenorio, other members of the champion team were Jace Pineda, Doreen Ravell, Rima Halaby, Naomi Cabrera, Paila Race, Jhumulyn Esposo, Chelsea Leskosik, Tiana Ranjo, Andrea Camacho, Phalai Frink, and Mabisa Ohni.

In the boys' 18-and-under finals, Indepedents Football Club leaned on an own goal in the second half to stun regular season leader MP United, 1-0.

IFC and MP United strikers hounded each other inside the penalty box with an MP United player accidentally hitting the ball, which then found the back of the net.

IFC's champion team was composed of David Young, Daryl Brand, Willy Brana, Jesse Palacios, Charles McEntee, Rio Cuellar, Keoni Borja, Kim Il Ho, Young Park, Joseph Palacios, Delbert Aguon, and Joshua Roberto.

Meanwhile, league organizers handed Golden Boot awards to Matansa's Ravell, and MP United's David Xiang. Ravell scored four goals in the regular season, while Xiang made nine.

GOVERNOR

From Page 28

finishers also received prizes from various sponsors.

One-shot behind Sablan was runner-up and 22-handicapper Tony Camacho, who carded a net 66, built on a 45 and 43 on the front and back nines, respectively. Camacho won $400. The Top 2 placers failed to receive their prizes personally from Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, as the awards ceremony started past lunchtime and golfers had already left after the buffet.

Third finisher Joe Saures was present to get his $300. Saures, a 10-handicapper, scored a 41 on the front and played better on the back with a 38 for a net 79 and gross 69. He defeated Meint Huesman in the scorecard tiebreak, leaving the latter to settle for fourth place.

Kenji Suzuki was alone in fifth place with his net 70. The 22-handicapper had a gross 92 after firing a 48 and 44 on the front and back nines, respectively. The fifth to 10th placers tallied identical net scores of 71. They were Carl Hocog, Vicky Borja, Joseph Borja, a certain Seo, and Leo Ganacias.

ADVANCE

From Page 28

run Muleta started. Pelisamen scored X-Terminators' last 10 points, as he and Muleta played big in the paint, exchanging roles with frontliners Kelvin Fitial and Gil Gapor.

Muleta and Pelisamen scored several points in the shaded lane, cutting through Hoopaholics' defense, leaving Fitial, Gapor, and point guard Jun Estolas the task to feed them inside.

With Sablan and Villacrusis missing outside, Mel Manibusan, Gyles Ruluked, and Peter Mendiola tried their luck in the paint. However, Advance did a great job clogging the passing lanes, forcing Hoopaholics big men to either lose the ball or kick it back outside.

After Muleta tied the game, he and Pelisamen teamed up in another 16-3 run, giving X-Terminators a double-digit lead, 79-68, going into the last two minutes of the match.

Pelisamen top-scored for Advance with 26 points, while Muleta chipped in 17.

Sablan led Hoopaholics with his 17 points, but was held to two points in the payoff canto. Villacrusis and Mendiola contributed 14 apiece.

The loss ended Hoopaholics' three-game winning run, dropping the squad to a 3-4 record in the team standings and tying Diamond for fifth to sixth place. Diamond snapped its two-game losing skid after beating Trinity Estate, which was winless in the regular season.

The regular season of the UBA caging will conclude tonight with a pair of games. Cholos will face Ol'Aces in the curtain raiser, while Noni Saipan will square off with Prospects in the second match.

Ol'Aces are already assured of the No. 2 spot, joining Advance in the semis, while the results of the Noni-Prospects game will determine the final standings of the next four teams (Noni, Prospects, Hoopaholics, and Diamond). Cholos and Trinity are already eliminated.

Advance 82 – Pelisamen 26, Muleta 17, Rebuyon 8, Fitial 8, Talania 7, Estolas 6, Gapor 4.

Hoopaholics 75 – Sablan 17, Jo. Villacrusis 14, Mendiola 14, Manibusan 8, D. Palacios 6, Ja.Villacrusis 5, Ruluked 5, Teregeo 3, G. Palacios 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-19, 33-34, 54-57, 82-75.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	9	.735	–
Toronto	19	18	.514	7 1/2
New York	15	21	.417	11
Philadelphia	11	25	.306	15
New Jersey	3	33	.083	23

Southeast Division

Orlando	25	12	.676	–
Atlanta	23	13	.639	1 1/2
Miami	18	16	.529	5 1/2
Charlotte	16	19	.457	8
Washington	12	22	.353	11 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	28	10	.737	–
Milwaukee	15	18	.455	10 1/2
Chicago	15	20	.429	11 1/2
Detroit	11	24	.314	15 1/2
Indiana	11	25	.306	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	25	12	.676	–
San Antonio	21	13	.618	2 1/2
Houston	21	16	.568	4
New Orleans	18	16	.529	5 1/2
Memphis	18	18	.500	6 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	23	14	.622	–
Portland	23	15	.605	1/2
Oklahoma City	20	16	.556	2 1/2
Utah	20	17	.541	3
Minnesota	8	30	.211	15 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	28	8	.778	–
Phoenix	23	14	.622	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	16	18	.471	11
Sacramento	15	21	.417	13
Golden State	11	24	.314	16 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 89, Memphis 87
Orlando 113, Atlanta 81
Philadelphia 104, Detroit 94
Oklahoma City 108, Indiana 102
Chicago 110, Minnesota 96
Houston 105, New York 96
Utah 111, Dallas 93
Sacramento 102, Denver 100

SBS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)–Scores Saturday from the SBS Championship, a $5.6 million US PGA Tour winners-only event at 7,411-yard, par-73 Plantation Course at Kapalua:

THIRD ROUND

Lucas Glover	66-65-71–202
Geoff Ogilvy	69-66-68–203
Martin Laird	67-68-69–204
Ryan Moore	69-68-68–205
Retief Goosen	70-69-67–206
Stewart Cink	68-69-69–206
Angel Cabrera	68-68-70–206
Matt Kuchar	67-68-71–206
Sean O'Hair	68-67-71–206
John Rollins	68-66-72–206
Kenny Perry	70-67-70–207
Pat Perez	71-70-67–208
Paul Casey	70-69-69–208
Nick Watney	67-71-70–208
Rory Sabbatini	70-68-70–208
Y.E. Yang	70-74-66–210
Dustin Johnson	67-71-72–210
Steve Stricker	73-70-68–211
Stephen Ames	71-69-71–211
Zach Johnson	72-69-71–212
Brian Gay	72-71-70–213
Jerry Kelly	69-70-74–213
Nathan Green	67-70-77–214
Mark Wilson	74-71-70–215
Bo Van Pelt	72-70-73–215
Michael Bradley	73-72-71–216
Troy Matteson	73-70-73–216
Heath Slocum	75-71-71–217

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UBA STANDINGS

Advance	7	0
Ol'Aces	5	1
Noni Saipan	4	2
Prospect	3	3
Hoopaholics	3	4
Diamond	3	4
Cholos	1	5
Trinity	0	7

The Week in Sports

Cage teams get crowns

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs started 2010 with a title-win in the 2009 IT&E Inter Government/Business Basketball League, beating NTT Docomo in the finals, 80-70.

The title duel was originally scheduled for Dec. 28, but was moved to Jan. 4, giving DCCA an opportunity to greet the new year with a smile and a championship trophy, its second since ruling the first government caging in 2001.

Seven more basketball teams began 2010 with title-clinching wins.

In the 2009 Annual Youth Christmas Hoop Fest, three Rollers teams prevailed in their respective age group competitions.

Rollers Badu won the boys' 11-and-under title, while Rollers A topped both the boys' 14-and-under and 18-and-under age groups. Rollers Badu was the lone entry in the boys' 11-and-under; Rollers A thwarted the Southern Sonics in the boys' 18 finals, 58-52; and Rollers A edged Lil' Sonics in the boys' 14 finals, 48-42.

In the girls division, Hopwood prevailed over Lady Hilitais, 63-17, in the 14-and-under age group, and Mixed Plate won over the MHS Dolphins, 44-38.

In the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League at the JP Centre Basketball Court, Diamond Ali'i defeated Noni Saipan, 88-72, to secure the event's pennant championship.

Diamond Ali'i improved to a 6-1 record with one game left in the regular season. Even if Diamond loses its last game, it had the pennant already in the bag, as its closest pursuer, Noni Saipan dropped to a 5-3 mark.

In the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court, Advance X-Terminators swept the regular season en route to claiming the inaugural event's pennant and an automatic semis slot.

Advance completed the regular season with a 7-0 record after slipping past Hoopaholics, 87-81, on Friday.

Also keeping its unbeaten record (4-0) at the start of the year was Natibu, which shut out Calikano-Falcons, 21-0, in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League.

Another shutout win of the week came from Chura, which blanked Lancheros, 14-0, on Wednesday, to improve to 4-1 record in the 21-team field.

Other teams gaining wins in the Chamolinian league at the beginning of 2010 were Ur Balls, 6-Pack, Hitz, G-Ballers, Man Amigos, San Roque, SaiPal, and Blazers.

CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor celebrated New Year away from home, as she is in Australia to complete in three tournaments.

She debuted in the 2010 Ducats GV Championships in Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club, in Shepparton, Victoria, Australia and dropped her first match in the main draw. However, Minor recovered in the consolation draw, beating two seeded foes and advancing to the finals before losing to Australia's Laura Kelley, 4-8.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, three of the Top 5 individual performers in the girls' 18-and-under division of the Christmas caging, MHS' Lena Guzman, Mixed Plate's Roxanne Duenas, and MHS' Lalaine Pagarao.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of Rollers A pose with their championship trophy in the boys' 18-and-under age group.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rollers head coach Joe Diaz, left, joins the three top individual performers in the boys' 11-and-under age group of the Christmas caging.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Diamond Ali'i Mel Capalad, right, taps the ball away from Noni Saipan's Jun Pantaleon during their game in the PILCOWA caging at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Advance's Pando Muleta, left, beats Ol'Aces' Jose Tumaquip for the loose ball during their battle for the pennant in the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor, seen here practicing her shots during a tryout for the CNMI National Team on the PIC hardcourt last month, is in Australia to compete in three tournaments.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rollers A's Zack Tudela is fouled by the Sonics' Melvin Cadiang during their title match in the boys' 18-and-under division of the Christmas caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
DCCA's Romeo Iginoef, center, drives against NTT Docomo's Wowie Abuel, left, and Jun Estolas during their title game in the government/business caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sanchez nearly flawless, Jets beat Bengals

With their rookie quarterback playing mistake-free, the New York Jets turned their surprising playoff appearance into a long-running production. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cage teams get crowns

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs started 2010 with a title-win in the 2009 IT&E Inter Government/Business Basketball League, beating NTT Docomo in the finals, 80-70. **27**

Advance sweeps regular season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Advance swept the regular season of the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League, following its 82-75 win against Hoopaholics on Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Achieving an immaculate 7-0 slate was not easy for the X-Terminators, as Hoopaholics repeatedly threatened to put a mark on Advance's slate before collapsing in the last eight minutes of the game.

In the first period, Hoopaholics led, 19-12, behind the two triples of Joseph Villacrusis and kept the lead at halftime, 34-33, as they added three more treys in the second period.

In the third quarter, John Sablan connected on three straight triples on the same spot and scored 13 straight markers at one point in that canto to keep Hoopaholics afloat, 57-54.

Sablan then sat out in the first five minutes of the fourth quarter due to a minor injury and that was all Advance needed to recover and steal the win.

After Hoopaholics increased their lead to five, 63-58, Pando Muleta scored five straight points on a triple and a layup to tie the game, with less than six minutes left on the clock.

Sablan reported back into the game, but had already lost his touch, while Freddie Pelisamen finished the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Advance's Gil Gapor makes a reverse layup against Hoopaholics' Mel Manibusan during their game in the UBA caging on Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Matansa, Independents are U18 fall league champions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The plates of the perpetual trophies for Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's youth league will have two new team names on display, following Matansa's and Independents' victories in the finals of the NMIFA U18 Football Fall League on Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The Lindsay Davis-coached Matansa Football Club dethroned spring league champion Paire Football Club, 1-0, in the girls' 18-and-under finals. A free kick from Michiko Tenorio in the 16th minute of the first half lifted Matansa to a title win.

Paire tried to break it to the scoreboard in the second half, hoping to either tie the game or win it for back-to-back titles. However, the dethroned champion had only a few opportunities to attack Matansa's goal and in those occasions, Matansa defenders were quick to save the ball.

On offense, Matansa had several opportunities to score more with the taller and quicker Jacque Wonenberg and Madison Smith leading the attack. However, they could not complete the play as either they overshot it or Paire defenders entered the picture and kicked the ball out.

Matansa had an early celebration when the 45-minute game in the second half ended with the team still ahead, 1-0. Paire coach Patricia Coleman stepped in and explained the match should be played for five more minutes since it was the finals. Paire and Matan-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of Matansa Football Club pose with their championship trophy after beating Paire in the finals of the girls U18 division of the NMIFA fall league on Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Smith, Kabiriel lead Tank 2 Tank winners

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Participants in the 2010 Tank 2 Tank Aquathon pose for a group photo before the race on Saturday at the former AJ's Restaurant in Susupe.

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REPORTER

Veterans Stuart Smith and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel showed the way in the 2010 MTEC Tank 2 Tank Aquathon held on Saturday.

Smith and Kabiriel posted the fastest time in the open division, combining for 39 minutes and 26 seconds in the 1-kilometer swim off the waters in the former AJ's Restaurant in Susupe and 5-km run from the starting line in AJ's to the old Japanese tank in Beach Road and back.

It was a come-from-behind win for the Smith-Kabiriel tandem, as the former came out only fourth in the swim leg, which brought swimmers to the waters where two World War II tanks are partially submerged.

Shin Kimura completed the swim leg first, followed by eventual solo top finisher Andres Buitrago, runner-up Mieko Carey, and Smith. When Smith moved out of the water, Kimura's runner, Kai Staal, had already passed Minatchom Atdao.

However, Kabiriel caught up with Staal at Microl, heading back to the finish line. Staal and Kimura submitted 40:20 to settle for second place. Kabiriel and Smith won $50 each and water park passes for two at Saipan World Resort, while Kimura and Staal

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Joe Saures, left, receives his third place prize from Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos during the awards ceremony for the 2010 Governor's Inauguration Golf Tournament at The Range of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Governor's Inauguration tourney draws 127 golfers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

On- and off-island golfers joined the festivities leading up to today's inauguration, as 127 par-busters participated in the 2010 Governor's Inauguration Golf Tournament on Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Of the more than 100 golfers who played on the west course of the Kagman facility, Rudy Sablan came up with best net score of 65 to rule the double-peoria tournament. Sablan, a 10-handicaper, shot an even par 36 on the front nine and a 3-over par 39 on the back for a gross 75. Sablan's 75 is the second best low gross score in the tournament, three strokes behind Bae Young Man's 72. Unfortunately for Bae, only the net scores are counted in determining the top finishers in the one-day event.

Sablan won two roundtrip tickets to the Philippines, courtesy of Asiana Airlines, while the 29 other top

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